

International Conference

# GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY'S VALUE AND LAW POWER FACING A CRISIS OF VALUES AND LAW. IDEAS AND ACTIONS TO SHAPE AN INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF PEACE

University of Padova, 11th -12th November 2024



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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
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HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE  
ANTONIO PAPISCA

Spigi 100 YEARS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
1924 - 2024

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, LAW AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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Chair  
Human Rights, Democracy and Peace  
University of Padova

## CONCEPT NOTE

Over the last decades, civil society organisations have significantly contributed to give universal values and norms a more salient position within the international political system. However, such a contribution is now widely defied by current global developments that are changing the state-civil society mutual relationship. The enduring phase of human rights regression, democratic backsliding, widespread conflict, and worsening climate crisis have been accompanied by a reorientation of the international system towards Westphalian power politics, which constitutes a fundamental challenge to civil society's capacity to fulfil its consolidated role. More specifically, while NGOs, social movements and individual advocates are notably facing raising governmental pressures and intimidation to act domestically, such daunting historical phase is also affecting the global dimension of civil society's engagement, challenging its expected positive impact on the multilateral regimes for international human rights law, international democracy, and peace.

This International Conference aims to take stock of the current state of health of transnational bottom-up actions, proposals and strategies to support these regimes, their norms, values and institutions. To this end, the event seeks to gather scholars and doctoral students from different disciplinary perspectives, as well as experts and practitioners at all levels of governance, to exchange their perspectives and critical views on the following underlying questions:

What are today the main opportunities and the practical and relational obstacles for civil society organisations to unite across borders to develop human rights standards and support the monitoring and recommendatory work of international (human rights) organisms?

What ideas and actions are civil society organisations considering and proposing to adapt, resist to and overcome the current global scenario and advance an international order of peace where international law and multilateral institutions are fundamentally respected by the members of the international community?

How are the negotiation style and the methods of "NGOs' diplomacy" practically and conceptually shifting to bypass the current breakdown of values and norms?

## PROGRAMME

### Monday, 11th November 2024

9:30-10:00 (Archivio Antico, Palazzo Bo)

#### ■ Salutation and short introduction

**Marco Mascia**, President of the Human Rights Centre "Antonio Papisca", University of Padova

**Sara Pennicino**, President of the MA degree programme in Human Rights and Multi-Level Governace, University of Padova

**Pietro de Perini**, Coordinator of the Conference's Scientific Committee, University of Padova

10:00-12:30 (Archivio Antico, Palazzo Bo)

#### Opening Plenary Session

#### ■ Global civil society's value and law power facing a crisis of values and law

Chair: **Peter Johansson**, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

Speakers:

**Nina Hall**, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

**Nina Reiners**, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo

**Thomas Davies**, Department of International Politics, City, University of London

12:30-14:00 (Basilica, Palazzo Bo)

Conference Lunch

14:30-16:00 (Human Rights Centre, Via Beato Pellegrino, 28)

#### Parallel Research Panels, track A

##### PANEL 1

#### ■ Protecting civil society's role in the United Nations human rights system

Chair: **Damien Short** and **Corinne Lennox**, Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Studies, University of London

Speakers:

**Robin Ramcharan**, Mahidol University International College

*Southeast Asian Civil Society Organisations and the Universal Periodic Review: Transcending the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights' Hazy Protection Capacity*

**Raamandarsingh (Neel) Purmah**, Middlesex University Mauritius

*Assessing the Effectiveness of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Shaping the Domestic Legal Framework*

**Matteo Colorio**, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

*A New Global Treaty for Crimes Against Humanity: What Role for Civil Society?*

**Alexandra Budabin**, Eurac Research Institute for Minority Rights

*How Frames Matter for Transnational Advocacy by Minority Representatives at the UN*

**Mustafa Demirkol**, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University

*Is the United Nations Uninvolved in Peace? Observations on Peace Marches by a Local 'United Nations' Community in Malmö*

## PANEL 2

### ■ **A multi-level governance of resilience: civil society and local governments for the promotion of peace and human rights**

Chair: **Gerd Oberleitner** and **Lisa Heschl**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz

Speakers:

**Elisa Gamba**, University of Padova

*A multi-level governance of resilience: civil society, universities and local governments for the support of refugee students*

**Chiara Minora**, University of Milano

*Feminist vision(s) of peace in frozen conflict settings: the case study of Georgia-Abkhazia*

**Tulasa Neupane**, Nepal Consulting Lawyers Inc.

*The Synergy of Civil Society and Local Governance in Nepal's Path to Resilience*

**Chiara Zaia**, University of Palermo

*The Role of Civil Society and Host States in ISDS Mechanisms: Legal Mobilization and Environmental Protection in Latin America*

**Angelica Vascotto**, University of Padova;

**Pietro de Perini**, University of Padova;

**Piergiuseppe Parisi**, University of York

*Mapping Local Human Rights in Triveneto*

**Isabella Valbusa**, University of Padova;

**Maria Cristina Ginevra**, University of Padova;

**Laura Nota**, University of Padova

*A preschool intervention to build inclusive and rights-respectful societies: A pilot study*

## PANEL 3

### ■ **Navigating shrinking civic space through digital advocacy and mobilization**

Chair: **Peter Johansson**, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

Speakers:

**Miriam Bartolozzi**, University of Macerata;  
**Sara Corsaro**, University of Macerata; **Phúc Văn Nguyễn**, University of Macerata

*The East Asian Feminist Rage against "De-epfakes": from Online to Offline Mobilisation of South Korean and Chinese Women*

**Riccardo Nanni**, Fondazione Bruno Kessler;  
**Pietro De Perini**, University of Padova

*The shrinking online space of civil society: withstanding social control by infrastructure in war zones. The Palestine case*

**Murtaza Mohiqi**, University of Agder, Norway

*The Role of Global Civil Society in Shaping Ethical Norms for Digital Governance Amid Misinformation and Digital Oppression*

**Sumayya Rahman**, University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh; **UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies**

*International Law and the Digital Age: Addressing the Fragmentation of Democratic Norms Amidst Disinformation Crises*

**Ahmed Abidur Razzaque Khan**, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB)

*Gen-z and the Role of Social Media Towards Forming a non-discriminatory Society: The Case of the July Movement of Bangladesh*

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30 (Human Rights Centre, Via Beato Pellegrino, 28)

## Parallel Research Panels, track B

### PANEL 4

#### ■ Innovation and threats in transnational social mobilization

Chair: **Damien Short** and **Corinne Lennox**, Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Studies, University of London

Speakers:

**Alexandre Mortelette**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights from the University of Luxembourg  
*When civil society plants the seeds of normative change - The role of non-state actors in the adoption of UNDROP*

**Shaimaa Abdelkarim**, School of Law, University of Birmingham

*Locating Egyptian Feminist Practices in Counter hegemonic Human Rights Spaces*

**Uche Oguleru**, Centre For Educational Support & Development Initiatives for the Less Privileged, Nigeria; **Luke Amadi**, Centre For Educational Support & Development Initiatives for the Less Privileged, Nigeria

*Democracy, New Social Mobilization and state repression in the Global South: Evidence from the 'END SARS' Protest in Nigeria*

**Doug Specht**, University of Westminster  
*The cartographer as activist: Mapping and social justice*

**Elina Sagne-Ollikainen**, Åbo Akademi University

*Intersections between Human Rights and theatre: A case of boundary-breaking Theatre in Finland*

### PANEL 5

#### ■ Protecting human rights in situation of conflict: NGOs and human rights defenders' challenges, lessons learned and successes

Chair: **Piergiuseppe Parisi**, Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York

Speakers:

**Jasmin Lilian Diab**, Institute for Migration Studies and Assistant Professor of Migration Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, Lebanese American University

*A Beirut Blast: How Inclusive Disaster Management for Refugees and Hosts Reassembled a Community in a Disintegrated City*

**Theshaya Naidoo**, University of Kwazulu Natal

*Resilience in Crisis: The Role of NGOs and Human Rights Defenders in Conflict Zones*

**Laura Restrepo**, Comite de Solidaridad con los Presos Politicos

*We still remember you: Alfredo Correa de Andreis and its impact on Human Rights Defenders in Colombia*

**Carlos Gutiérrez-Rodríguez**, University of Padova

*Memorial Justice as a tool for Peacebuilding: Recommendations and lessons learned from victims' activism in Colombia*

**Elizaveta Filippova**, University of Padova  
*From Silence to Evidence: Documentation of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence by Civil Society in Ukraine and Global Lessons*

**Roberto De Vogli**, University of Padova  
*Peaceful and sustainable societies: is the "international community" facing a crisis of universal empathy?*

## PANEL 6

### ■ **From protest to power: the dynamic influence of social movements in the 21st century**

Chair: **Magdalena Ratajczak** and **Anna Cichecka**, Institute of International Studies, University of Wrocław

Speakers:

**Piyali Chatterjee**, ICFAI University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

*Beyond the hashtag: Feminist movements, policy wins, and struggles in modern India*

**John Duncan**, School of Advanced Study, University of London

*Neoliberal Fascism and Human Rights Regression*

**Conor Hill**, Glasgow Caledonian University; **Indira Boutier**, Glasgow Caledonian University

*The Paradox of Progress: Social Movements and the Legal Disconnect in Indigenous Rights in Canada*

**Chandrakant Salunkhe**, Centre of Botany, Krishna Mahavidyalaya, Shivnagar, India; **Vijaykumar Nimbalkar**, Sahyadri Devrai Samajik Sanstha; **Suhas Waingankar**, Sahyadri Devrai Samajik Sanstha

*Harnessing the Power of Environmental Activism: The Role of Sahyadri Devrai NGO, India in Climate Advocacy and Policy Development*

**Natalia Pietruszka**, University of Wrocław

*Criminalizing Climate Activism: A Misuse of Justice or Necessary Measure?*

**Ian Turner**, the University of Central Lancashire, UK

*Critical Legal Theory and Rehabilitating Rights*

**Tuesday, 12th November 2024**

10:00-12:00 (Teatro Ruzante)

**Closing Plenary Roundtable**

### ■ **Civil society's added values and challenges in making human rights education in university truly transformative**

Chair: **Lisa Heschl**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz and **Pietro de Perini**, Human Rights Centre, University of Padova

Speakers:

**Felisa Tibbitts**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Higher Education, Utrecht University

**Alicia Cabezudo**, University of Rosario, Argentina; University of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; GAMIP

**Corinne Lennox**, Human Rights Consortium, SAS, University of London

**Stasya Denisova**, Amnesty International

**Christine Nanteza**, The Student Engagement Team - Padova

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Anna Cichecka**, Institute of International Studies, University of Wroclaw, Poland

**Paola Degani**, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova

**Pietro de Perini**, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova

**Paolo De Stefani**, Human Rights Centre, University of Padova

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**Gerd Oberleitner**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz

**Piergiuseppe Parisi**, Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York

**Magdalena Ratajczak**, Institute of International Studies, University of Wroclaw, Poland

**Damien Short**, Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Studies, University of London

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Katia Milan, Donatella Daniel, Luca Gazzola, Sofia Pieretti, Sofia Vanzan, Alexandrina Minciuna, Federica Francescon, Giuliana Renda, Lidia Meloni.

The Conference is organised by the Human Rights Centre “Antonio Papisca” and the UNESCO Chair “Human Rights, Democracy and Peace” with the support of the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies of the University of Padova.

Event partners include the **School of Global Studies**, University of Gothenburg, the **Human Rights Consortium**, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, the **UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security** at the University of Graz, and the **Institute of International Studies** of the University of Wroclaw.

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## INFO

### Conference's venues

The Opening Plenary Session takes place in the Archivio Antico, located in the historic headquarters of the University of Padova at the Palazzo Bo, via 8 febbraio, Padova.

The Closing Plenary Roundtable takes place in Teatro Ruzante, Riviera Tito Livio, 45, Padova

The panels take place at the headquarters of the Human Rights Centre, located in via Beato Pellegrino, 28, Padova.

### Contacts

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