



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



CENTRO DI ATENE
PER I DIRITTI UMANI
ANTONIO PAPISCA



**Winter School
Human Rights and Democracy in the Era of New Challenges**

10 – 14 March 2025

Library of the Human Rights Centre, via Beato Pellegrino, 28 - Padova

Module 1. Human Rights in the Era of Social Media

10 March 2025, 14.30 – 17.30

Introducer: Alice Colombi, media and digital communications expert with European Union, OSCE/ODHIR, UNDP, UNESCO

Questions to be discussed include:

- *What are the main human rights challenges related to the use of social media in the public discourse?*
- *How to find an appropriate balance between freedom of expression and regulation of social media?*
- *Which standards and principles for regulation of traditional media are applicable also for social media?*
- *Examples of successful regulation of social media?*
- *Overregulation of social media: when it happens and what are the reasons and effects?*
- *Journalistic freedoms and social media: are bloggers journalists? What are their freedoms and responsibilities?*

Module 2. Human Rights in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

11 March 2025, 14.30 – 17.30

Introducer: Dr. Mige Laukyte, member of the European Group on Ethic in Science and New Technologies of the European Commission

Questions to be discussed include:

- *In which areas can AI enhance human rights? Any positive examples?*
- *What are the main human rights risks associated with AI?*
- *How is the regulation of AI helps mitigate the risks?*
- *Insights on the adoption of the CoE Convention on artificial intelligence. What are the expectations from this instrument?*
- *Comparative practices of the regulation of artificial intelligence at the national level?*

Module 3. Human rights in in the Era of Electoral Challenges

12 March 2025, 14.30 – 17.30

Introducer: Svetlana Chetaikina, electoral and legal expert with OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Questions to be discussed include:

- *Why and when elections become a matter of the international concern? What is the role of human rights in this process?*
- *What are instruments for the assessment of elections? What are the 'good electoral practices', and what makes them such?*
- *Why some elections do not reflect the will of the people?*
- *What is the role of elections in democracies and non-democracies? Do non-democracies need elections?*
- *Does it matter to have international access to the elections that do not deliver democratic results?*

Module 4. Money in Politics in the Era of Globalization

13 March 2025, 14.30 – 17.30

Introducer: Jorge Valladares, Political Integrity Policy Lead, Transparency International

Questions to be discussed include:

- *Does regulation of political financing matter for democratization?*
- *Are there any international standards for regulation of political finance?*
- *How transparency and accountability of institutions is linked with the political finance?*
- *What are the main tools to combat corruption?*
- *What anti-corruption practices should be incorporated in the national frameworks and what obstacles need to be overcome?*

Module 5. Human Rights in the Era of Environmental Challenges

14 March 2025, 14.30 – 17.30

Introducer: Natalia Kobylarz, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights
Vittoria Linchet, Executive Director, Green Rights Coalition

Questions to be discussed include:

- *What are the specific features of protection of environmental rights? What are the recent examples of the influence of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, and practices of tackling these issues?*
- *Should behavior of states towards the environmental protection change? What are new positive obligation of states vis-à-vis our environmental rights?*
- *What is the role of international cooperation and international influence in tackling environmental issues from the human rights perspective?*
- *How do human rights concepts change when it comes to jurisprudence on environmental rights?*