



Call for Papers

“The Diversity of Human Rights: Human Rights and Resistance”

2.-8. September 2018, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Elvio Baccarini, University of Rijeka
Prof. Dr. Bernd Ladwig, Free University Berlin
Prof. a.D. Dr. Georg Lohmann, University of Magdeburg
Dr. Ana Matan, University of Zagreb
Prof. Dr. Corinna Mieth, University of Bochum
Prof. Dr. Christian Neuhäuser, University of Dortmund
PD Dr. Arnd Pollmann, University of Magdeburg

Details

Topic: The Diversity of Human Rights: Human Rights and Resistance
Location: Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, Croatia
Date: September 2-8, 2018
Deadline: April 1, 2018
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Course Description

Human rights are not given beyond any doubt, but needed – and always need anew – to be fought for against despotic rule and political resistance. This fight can, therefore, be seen as some form of *counter-resistance*, which could be embodied in public critique, political protest, social movements, concrete rebellion or open violence. From this stems a close historical, political, social and also positive-judicial relationship between, on the one hand, human rights and, on the other, different practices as well as experiences of resistance against disfranchisement and discrimination.

From a historical perspective, this internal relationship can be drawn from the fact that all important documents of the historical development of human rights – for example, the Virginia Bill of Rights from 1776, the French Declaration of Human Rights from 1789 or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 – can directly be linked to political changes labeled as „revolutionary“. The national and international *progress* of the development of human rights always was accompanied by devastating experiences of violence, which provoked corresponding political resistance.

50 years after 1968, this year's course will deal with the diverse conceptual, historical, political and social ties and tensions between human rights and the many forms of protest and

resistance. Examples of conceptual or normative questions could be: When and under which conditions is political resistance legitimate and how far is disobedience allowed to go? Is there even a *human right* to resistance? And how is the „defensive character“ of human rights in total related to other dimensions of claims linked to these rights? With regard to empirical connections, the following exemplary questions could be asked: How do different movements of resistance refer to human rights? How does the „spirit of resistance“ settle in processes of institutionalization? And how can it be that human rights – as seen recently during the so-called Arab Spring – are ubiquitous as a form of political weaponry *during* revolutionary upheavals, but are forgotten rather quickly in their aftermath?

The annual course “The Diversity of Human Rights” addresses different problems within the human rights discourse. The participants come from various countries and bring in different disciplinary competences relevant for human rights theory and practice. The course aims at an interdisciplinary debate, especially between philosophy, jurisprudence, and political science. Furthermore, the course intends to establish a dialogue between academic researchers and human rights activists from the region.

The organizers invite researchers as well as human rights activists coming from all fields and disciplines, to send in abstracts (deadline: April 1, 2018) that deal with some of the problems and tensions indicated above. From the abstract, the relation to the course's topic should emerge clearly. The course will give room for the presentation of papers and will include workshops especially designed for students and young researchers to present their work in progress. Each director will invite excellent students to participate in the course. The course language is English.