



UK network on
**MINORITY GROUPS
& HUMAN RIGHTS**

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Aims and Interests of the Network

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The UK Network on Minority Groups and Human Rights was established in 2009 by scholars primarily based in the UK. The Network aims to organise conferences and roundtables on topical issues surrounding minority rights. The interests of members are diverse and the network welcomes the addition of new members.

One of the aims of the Network is to maintain a regular newsletter, updating colleagues on publications

and events relating to minority groups and human rights, as well as disseminating the work of the network across the UK and internationally.

Associates

Dr Gaetano Pentassuglia, General Editor

G.pentassuglia@liv.ac.uk

Reader in International Law and Human Rights, Director, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Director of LLM, University of Liverpool; Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor, Department of Law, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (2010-2011); Visiting Professor, University of Toronto Faculty of Law (2009)

Interests

International human/minority rights law; minority/indigenous protection, especially practical and conceptual perspectives on international and comparative jurisprudence within global and regional human rights systems; interplay between minority protection and general international (human rights) law.

Dr Tawhida Ahmed, Editor

T.b.ahmed@reading.ac.uk

Lecturer, School of Law, University of Reading

Interests

Minority rights in European and international law, especially in EU law; minority rights in Asia; minority protection and legal and political theory

Nadya Ali

xx017727@pgr.reading.ac.uk

PhD candidate in International Relations, University of Reading

Interests

Counter-terrorism, religious rights, multiculturalism, identity politics and the governance of minority groups

Mauro Barelli

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Lecturer, City Law School

Interests

Indigenous peoples' rights, public international law, human rights

Fiona Batt

fb0884@bristol.ac.uk

PhD Candidate University of Bristol

Interests

Indigenous Peoples' Rights in International Law; Indigenous

Peoples Cultural Heritage; Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights; Pastoralists' Rights; Dartmoor Commoners Rights

Dr Derya Bayir
derya_bayir@yahoo.com

Interests

International Minority Rights, ECHR, Minority Rights in Turkey, Ottoman pluralism

Gjylbehare Bella Murati
bellamurati2@gmail.com
PhD candidate, Public law Department, Law Faculty, Ghent University, Belgium

Interests

International public law, Minority rights and human rights in International law, state building and protection of minority rights in Balkans, good governance, international territorial administrations, multiculturalism.

Stephanie Berry
stephanie.berry@brunel.ac.uk
PhD candidate, Brunel Law School; Associate Tutor, University of East Anglia

Research Interests:

'New' Minorities; Religious Minorities; Minorities in Europe; Intersectionalities

Dr Elizabeth Craig
emc22@sussex.ac.uk
Lecturer, Sussex Law School, University of Sussex

Interests

European and international minority rights law, political v legal mechanisms for promoting minority rights, minority protection and minority rights in comparative perspective, multiculturalism and critiques, equality issues

Tahirih Danesh
tdanesh@juxta.com
Honorary research fellow, University of Roehampton; Senior Research Associate, Foreign Policy Centre; Director of operations, Justice for Iran

Interests

Women's rights, religious and ethnic minorities rights, transitional justice

Dr David J Galbreath
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Senior Lecturer, POLIS, University of Bath

Interests

National Minorities, post-imperial minorities, migrants and minorities.

Dr Gulara Guliyeva
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Lecturer, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham

Interests

Minority rights in European Law; Anti-discrimination law in European Law; European Human Rights Law

Elena Knyazeva
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PhD Candidate, Law Department, University College Cork, Ireland

Interests

Language rights of indigenous peoples; indigenous peoples' rights in the Arctic region; indigenous peoples' rights in Russia

Dr Sylvie Langlaude
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Lecturer School of Law, Queen's University Belfast

Interests

Religious minorities, minority children

Dr. Corinne Lennox
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Lecturer in Human Rights, Institute of Commonwealth

Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London

Interests

Minority protection civil society actors; Transnational social mobilisation by minority and indigenous groups; Norm evolution in minority and indigenous rights; International minority and indigenous protection and monitoring mechanisms; Afro-descendants in Latin America; Dalits and caste-based discrimination; minority and indigenous rights in Asia and Africa

Dr Marco Odello
mmo@aber.ac.uk
Senior Lecturer in Law, Aberystwyth University

Interests

Indigenous rights in international and comparative law

Dr. Alexander Osipov
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Senior Research Associate, European Centre for Minority Issues (Flensburg, Germany)

Interests

Non-discrimination and minority protection; autonomy; symbolic vs instrumental policies

Shayna Plaut
shayna.plaut@gmail.com
PhD student, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Interests

Transnational peoples and activism; media self representation; journalism education; right to culture and cultural practice as a form of advocacy, human rights education. Romani media and activism; transnational people's activism in other areas including the Saami people and Networks/INGOs working with and for transnational people.

Dr. Robin Redhead
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Lecturer in Human Rights, Kingston University

Interests

Practices of human right; minority and indigenous rights; agency and human subjectivity within human rights discourses.

Sarah Sargent
SJSargent@aol.com
Lecturer in Law, University of Buckingham

Interests

Indigenous rights in international law, indigenous children's rights, American

Indian legal issues in the United States, and transnational legal theory

Christian Schliemann
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PhD Candidate, Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany

Interests

Rights of indigenous peoples, right to autonomy, business and human rights, public international law and non-state actors.

Dr Prakash Shah
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Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, Queen Mary, University of London

Interests

Religion and law, ethnic minorities and diasporas in law, immigration, refugee and nationality law, and comparative law with special reference to South Asians.

Dr. Claudia Tavani
taffani@hotmail.com
PhD, LL.M, International Human Rights Law, University of Essex; Research Fellow, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Italy

Interests

International human/minority rights

law; minority/indigenous protection; cultural identity; collective/group rights; non-discrimination; freedom of expression; interplay between freedom of expression and prohibition of discrimination; Roma minorities in Europe.

Enzamaria Tramonontana
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Liverpool Law School, PhD
Candidate

Interests

Human rights; indigenous peoples' rights

Dr. Alexandra Xanthaki
Alexandra.Xanthaki@brunel.ac.uk
Reader in Law, Brunel Law
School, Brunel University

Interests

Indigenous Rights; Minority rights in European and international law; multiculturalism

Dr Anna-Mária Bíró
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Independent consultant based in
Dublin, Ireland

Interests:

Civil society contributions to the

evolution of the international minority protection regime; minority rights in local and multilevel governance; minority rights in public administration including public financing; the transnational regulation of ethnocultural identities; minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe; the rights of indigenous peoples.

Dr Ingi Iusmen
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Teaching Fellow, University of
Sheffield

Interests:

Children's rights in Europe, EU human rights, international adoptions, EU child rights policy, global governance and human rights, Lisbon Treaty, EU enlargement

Dr Anastasia Vakulenko
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Lecturer in Law, University of
Birmingham

Interests:

Minorities, human rights, gender, religion and secularism

Gjylbehare Bella Murati
PhD candidate, Public law
Department/Human
Rights Centre, Law Faculty,

Ghent University, Belgium

Interests:

International public law, Minority rights and human rights in International law, state building and protection of minority rights in Balkans, good governance, international territorial administrations, multiculturalism transitional justice.

Julian Burger
Professor, Institute of
Commonwealth Studies

Research interests: (a) the rights of indigenous peoples including land issues, extractive industries and policy; (b) minorities including Afro-descendants and Caste-based discrimination.

Graham Donnelly
grahamjdonnelly@gmail.com
PhD Researcher, University of
Glasgow

Interests:

Minority rights in the countries of the former Soviet Union (principally Latvia and Ukraine); Roma rights in Central and Eastern Europe; minority issues and Russian foreign policy; minority rights in EU enlargement;

minority rights in EU external relations (principally Eastern Partnership); and, as a volunteer at the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre in Glasgow, I also work on UK immigration and asylum cases.

Joel Hanisek

johanisek@gmail.com

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Dublin, Trinity College

Interests

Minority Rights in international law; minority protection and legal theory; freedom of religion

Hiba Waheed

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PhD Student, School of Law, University of Reading

Interests

Minority rights in international law, particularly religious minorities; protection of minority rights in Asia

Elyse Wakelin

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PhD Candidate, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Leicester

Interests

International human rights, minority protections in Europe, link between

minority right and EU enlargement, minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Latvia.

Recent and Forthcoming Events

Workshop on Minority Rights: Current Doctoral Research on Minority Rights, School of Law, University of Reading, 12 June 2013 (pm).

To apply to present at the workshop, please email a title and abstract to Tawhida Ahmed at t.b.ahmed@reading.ac.uk

Seminar on Minorities and Nationalism in Turkish Law, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 31 January 2013

Pakistan Minorities Rights Organisation UK Conference in House of Lords on the Treatment of Minorities in Pakistan, 12 March 2013

Workshop on Current Research Trends in Minority Rights, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 27 March 2013

Workshop: Current Research Trends in Indigenous Rights, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 27 March 2013

Eighteenth Joint Postgraduate Religion and Theology, University of Bristol, 8-9 March 2013

Harvard-Oxford Teleconference on Equality, Organised by Oxford Human Rights Hub, 2 May 2013

A Conference on the Inter-disciplinary Study of Race in the Americas, Birmingham and Midland Institute, 16 -17 April 2013

International Conference on Human Rights, The Hague, Netherlands, 7-10 July 2013

A Decade of Darfur: Why the genocide continues today, 12 March 2013, UCL

Conference on Negotiating Religion: Inquiries into the History and Present of Religious Accommodation, UCL, 1 May 2013

Bridging the divide – Matters to be taken into account in relation to the integration of equality bodies and human rights institutions, UCL, 15 March 2013

Annual Human Rights Conference on Human Rights and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin?

University of Nottingham, 9 March 2013

Graduate Conference on Human Rights: New Frontiers for Human Rights Theory and Practice
University of Glasgow, 22 May 2013

Fundamental Rights In Europe: A Matter For Two Courts, Oxford Brookes University, 18 January 2013

S. Plaut, 'The journalist IS the message: two diffusion strategies for transnational people's media,' International Studies Association, San Francisco, April 2013

S. Plaut, 'The unfolding story of human rights reporting: Tensions, strategies and next steps, Elon College, Elon, North Carolina, February 2013

The EURAC Federal Scholar in Residence Programme 2014
The EURAC-Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism now accepts applications for becoming EURAC's Federal Scholar 2014. More information available at www.eurac.edu/federal scholar

Symposium on 'When sleeping women wake, mountains move', hosted by Justice for Iran in London, 8 June 2013

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

G Pentassuglia, 'Protecting Minority Groups Through Human Rights Courts: The Interpretive Role of the European and Inter-American Jurisprudence', in A. Vrdoljak (ed), *The Cultural Dimension of Human Rights*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2013

T Ahmed, 'The Treaty of Lisbon and Beyond: the Evolution of European Union Minority Protection?', (2013) 38(1) *European Law Review* 30-51

E. Craig, 'A Right to Culture Identity in a UK Bill of Rights', (forthcoming, 2013) *European Public Law*

E. Craig, Research grant from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to conduct research into the right to culture in post-conflict countries (£15,000)

Christian Schliemann, "La autonomía de los pueblos indígenas de Costa Rica: Una contrastación del estándar internacional con la legislación nacional y su implementación", *Revista Latinoamericana de Derechos Humanos* Volumen 23, Nº 1, 2012 (forthcoming, 2013)

S. Plaut (in press, 2013). Nation building not resistance radio: Self determination, the state & Saami media. *Nordicom Review*

Curcic, S., & Plaut, S. (in press, 2013). Beyond numbers: Education and policy in the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015). In M. Miskovic (Ed.), *Roma Education in Europe: Practices, policies, and politics*. London, U. K.: Routledge.

Plaut, S. (2012) Expelling the victim by demanding voice: The counterframing of transnational Romani activism. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* Volume 37 Issue 1, pp. 52 - 65.

Plaut, S. (2012). Absent Roma Imported Interest: Roma as Agent and Subject in the Republic of Macedonia. In V. de Munck (Ed.), *Macedonia: The political, social, economic and cultural foundations of a Balkan State*. London, UK: I.B. Tauris. pp. 191-209

Claudia Tavani, La Protezione dell'identità sarda nella prospettiva del diritto internazionale, in G. De Muro (ed.), (Il Mulino, 2013) (forthcoming)

Claudia Tavani, La protezione delle minoranze in Italia e il mancato riconoscimento della minoranza rom: ragioni e conseguenze, *European Autonomy and Diversity Papers* 3, 2013

Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/>

[GuidanceNoteRacialDiscriminationMinorities.pdf](#)

For the Newsletters of the OHCHR Indigenous and Minorities section, see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/Pages/NewsletterArchives.aspx>

Recent Developments

Non recognition of indigenous peoples and their rights in international investment arbitration

Christian Schliemann, PhD Candidate, Free University Berlin

In a pending international investment arbitration in the joint Cases No. ARB/10/25 and ARB/10/15 before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes four indigenous communities from Zimbabwe together with a European NGO attempted to introduce land and consultation rights of indigenous peoples that should on the basis of public international law be taken into account by both parties to the proceedings, the State

and the investor.

The petition to proceed as *amicus curiae* was rejected by the Tribunal revealing in its reasoning an alarming inclination towards a complete disregard for the rights of indigenous peoples in international investment arbitration. The arbitration concerns the expropriation of real property of an investor as part of Zimbabwe's ongoing land reform. The expropriated land used for commercial forestry comprises areas of the traditional territory of the indigenous groups.

Assessing the suitability of the *amicus* submission the Tribunal came to a number of troubling assertions that negate the possibility for indigenous peoples to participate as *amicus curiae* in international investment arbitration and violate basic premises of the internationally recognised rights of indigenous peoples. The Tribunal starts off by declaring that "neither party

has put the identity and/or treatment of indigenous peoples, or the indigenous communities in particular, under international law, including international human rights law on indigenous peoples, in issue in these proceedings". This reasoning continues by an outright assessment of Art. 26 UNDRIP as non relevant and a further disqualification of provisions of the AfCHPR or CERD invoked by the petitioners as "other unspecified customary international law norms". As concerns the indigenous identity of the petitioners the Tribunal asks the appropriate question of "whether or not Arbitral Tribunals are the appropriate arbiters of this decision" without providing an answer and concludes that "a submission on the putative rights of the indigenous communities as "indigenous peoples" under international human rights law" is "clearly outside the scope of the dispute".

The Tribunal thereby violated the principle of self-identification of indigenous peoples,

disregarded any interdependence of investment law with the internationally binding rights of indigenous peoples and required a prior reference to the rights of indigenous peoples by one of the parties, which contradicts the very sense of amicus curiae petitions and allows for a mutual opting out of international human rights obligations. In sum the Tribunal should better have denied jurisdiction generally, instead of declining its competence to decide on the identity of the petitioners but however recognising that their interests are affected. As a consequence indigenous peoples are effectively denied access to justice. The only remaining possibility is to challenge a subsequent implementation measure by the State negatively affecting the indigenous groups before another international institution such as a regional human rights body for violation of the rights of indigenous peoples. This option, involving however a lot of costs and several years of time, would at least create the opportunity

Further UK Links

University of Reading

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/law/research/law-minority-groups-and-human-rights.aspx>

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(or t.b.ahmed@reading.ac.uk)

Human Rights Consortium

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/hrc/networks>

Contact us

Contact us if you are interested in joining the network or for further information:

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