



University of Essex

Human Rights Centre

Essex Human Rights Summer School

29 JUNE – 7 JULY 2015

The Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex will offer its five day summer school on **Human Rights Research Methods** at its Colchester campus from 29 June to 3 July 2015.

This will be followed by a second week (6 – 7 July) of thematic modules on cutting edge issues in human rights including **Technology and Human Rights; Transitional Justice; Human Rights and Drug Policy;** and **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**



www.essex.ac.uk/hrc/summerschool

Human Rights Research Methods (29 June – 3 July 2015)

Overview

The motivation for the Human Rights Research Methods summer school is the recognition that very little attention has been paid to methodology in human rights. This is in spite of the level of research on human rights that is carried out by academics, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organisations such as the United Nations and the direct bearing methodology has on the strength, persuasiveness and legitimacy of research findings and their impact on policy and practice.

This summer school provides the core methods and skills needed to carry out human rights research whether for academic scholarship; bids for large research projects or reports for NGOs, international organisations and governments. It is an essential course for human rights professionals working in NGOs, government and international organisations; lawyers; academics and postgraduate students.

Sessions

Sessions on the summer school include:

- Interviewing Survivors of Human Rights Violations
- Interviewing Women and Girls
- Conducting In-Country Research
- Researching in Conflict and Post-Conflict States
- Single and Comparative Case Studies
- Focus Group Discussions
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Choosing between Research Approaches: Qualitative / Quantitative
- Counting Human Rights Violations
- Surveys
- Socio-Economic and Administrative Statistics
- Indicators
- The Role of Databases
- Measuring the Impact of Transitional Justice
- Measuring the Impact of the Right to Health
- Bringing the Methods Together: When to Use What

Teaching Team

The summer school will be taught by a combination of Essex and external human rights academics and practitioners. The team includes:

- Associate Professor Başak Çali, Koç University
- Professor Paul Hunt, University of Essex
- Professor Todd Landman, University of Essex
- Esther Major, Amnesty International
- Lorna McGregor, University of Essex
- Dr Sarah Nouwen, University of Cambridge
- Professor Leigh A. Payne, University of Oxford
- Dr Róisín Ryan-Flood, University of Essex
- Professor Margaret L. Satterthwaite, New York University School of Law
- Associate Professor Nora Sveaass, Member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

Thematic Human Rights Modules (6 – 7 July 2015)

Human Rights, Big Data and Technology (6 – 7 July)

This summer school module examines the use of Big Data and Technology as both a key threat to human rights and a possible means of achieving human rights protection. It first examines the risks to privacy and a wide range of other human rights posed by security surveillance and near ubiquitous non-state 'soft-surveillance'.

It then turns to the increasing use of Big Data and Technology by human rights organisations to collect evidence and document human rights violations, with a particular focus on user-generated content and social media. The module then examines the ethics involved in both critiquing and utilising Big Data and Technology for human rights; the reliability and possibility of mining and analysing such data for use as evidence; and the limits of data protection and informed consent.

Economic and Social Dimensions of Transitional Justice (6 – 7 July)

This summer school module organised by the Essex Transitional Justice Network will examine to what extent and how transitional justice should address the economic and social dimensions of conflict or repression, such as land displacement or resource plunder.

Day one will provide an introduction to transitional justice, followed by discussions of how to conceptualise economic and social dimensions of transitional justice, the benefits and challenges of broadening transitional justice processes to include such issues, and analyse how to address violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the context of transitional justice. Day two will look at different case studies in which economic and social dimensions of transitional justice played an important role, such as Colombia, Uganda, the DRC, and the Arab Uprising.

Human Rights & Drug Policy (6 – 7 July)

Drug control is a neglected and under-researched human rights theme despite the scale of human rights abuses occurring in its name each year. The relationship between international human rights law and international drug control law is therefore a significant issue for human rights activists and scholars, yet to date it has largely gone unaddressed.

A United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) scheduled for 2016 is a key moment to begin a discourse on how human rights can be given meaningful effect in the implementation of drug policy. This summer school module organised by the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy provides the core legal foundations of human rights and drug control, presents tools to undertake research, introduces the political landscape of policy reform and provides an in-depth discussion on the some of the most polarising human rights issues in the lead up to the UNGASS and beyond.

Autonomy and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (7 July)

This summer school module organised by the Essex Autonomy Project will look at how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) interfaces with existing mental capacity law. Our prime example will be the Mental Capacity Act (2005) of England and Wales, which was originally hailed as a human rights statute and as the most progressive capacity legislation in the world, but has come recently under fire as incompatible with the UNCRPD. With this example in mind, the module will explore what it would be to achieve compliance with the UNCRPD, given the broad array it and other human rights instruments contain.

For information on the specific sessions and teaching team for each summer school module visit www.essex.ac.uk/hrc/summerschool

Fees

The course fees for Essex Human Rights Summer School are as follows:

Human Rights Research Methods

- External organisations – £1,000
- University of Essex postgraduate students, staff and alumni – £850

Human Rights, Big Data and Technology

Economic and Social Dimensions of Transitional Justice

Human Rights & Drug Policy

- External organisations – £450/module
- University of Essex postgraduate students, staff and alumni – £400/module

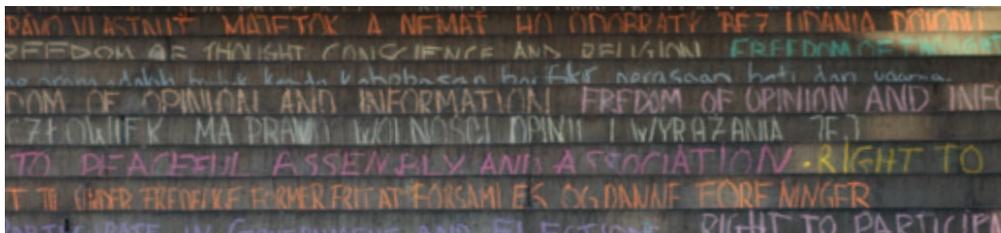
Autonomy and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- External organisations – £225/module
- University of Essex postgraduate students, staff and alumni – £200/module

A 15% discount is available on course bookings that include the Human Rights Research Methods course and a thematic module.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at our Colchester campus in en-suite student accommodation with shared kitchen facilities at £45 per night on a bed and breakfast basis. Accommodation is available for the duration of the summer school only.



Further information

For further information on the Essex Human Rights Summer School including details of how to book a place, visit www.essex.ac.uk/hrc/summerschool or email hrcsummerschool@essex.ac.uk

