

# Human Rights

## Research Committee 26 IPSA

**Newsletter No. 2, April 2017**

**Website: <http://rc26.ipsa.org>**



### **Message from the Chair**

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Dear Members of RC 26,

Today's global society is facing many challenges. While some of the challenges are new in nature, others have precedents in history. The new challenges include the radical socio-economic transformation with the advent of artificial intelligence and the space exploration as for an alternative to exhausted earth. The historical parallels of

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current challenges regard the re-emergence of hatred and violence on a certain segment of the populace and leaders which led to the massive scale of destruction in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Capitalist greed in the form of environmental degradation and xenophobic populism in the form of electoral tyranny suggest that the current form of *modus operandi* cannot be sustained. The problems pertaining to the deterioration of capitalist democracy and threat to Anthropocene can be addressed by one existential question: what makes us human? The essay contributed by Professor Eric Palmer at Allegheny College in the US state of Pennsylvania on the legal case of our Turkish colleague, professor Istar Gozaydin is a wonderful example in point.

As the arrival of smart machines has begun to replace error-prone human labor, we are driven to find our own niche vis-à-vis the machines. As the threatened groups lash out on the more vulnerable, we are forced to find the ways for peaceful co-existence with the machines and Others. These imperatives call for a serious soul searching into what constitutes us as uniquely human? We are in desperate need of alternative paradigm. I believe the pressing questions can be dealt, in part, by the rediscovery and celebration of human attributes. Some of the attributes include our capacity to: imagine, commiserate, empathize, trust of intuition, have faith, believe in justice, be kind, think ahead and love. These vague and abstract qualities can be expressed as our devotion to protect and promote human rights. The essay contributed by Professor Emeritus Henry Krisch at

## RC26 IPSA

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University of Connecticut on his human rights journey testifies to the danger of totalitarian control of human mind and body and the subsequent resistance to rectify them. His essay illuminates the triumph of human spirit.

Human rights is ultimately about our inherent entitlements to live like humans. Without thinking through what makes us human, engaging in meaningful rights discourse is difficult. With rising vulnerabilities and accompanying threats in contemporary milieu, human rights is under attack. In this context, academic freedom is also being undermined. The structural variable such the increasing mismatch between the supply side (the number of available faculties) and the demand side (the size of student pools) is also contributing to the neoliberalist mode of cut-throat competition in academic community. One issue that can unite us as one cohesive group can be shared belief in academic freedom as our *raison-d'etat*.

RC26 is going to organize a panel devoted to academic freedom during the ECPR general conference at University of Oslo in Norway on September 9. As the chair of the roundtable panel, I will keep you posted on the contents of the discussions later on.

Sincerely Yours,

Mikyoung Kim

Chair, RC 26

Human rights

## REFLECTION ON THE RELEASE OF A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Early in the morning of 20 December 2016, Professor İřtar Gözaydın received a rap on the door of her home in Istanbul. Her personal items – particularly, books and a computer – were collected by Turkish police and with them she was transported from Istanbul to the smaller city of İzmir, where she had previously been employed, for questioning and detention. Gözaydın was charged a week later, though the charges were not made public, as the terms of the State of Emergency provision currently declared in Turkey allows. She was initially, then repeatedly, denied a release on her own recognizance pending trial, and the sum of these characteristics effectively qualified her for the status of prisoner of conscience. Without notice, on her 100<sup>th</sup> day of incarceration, İřtar Gözaydın’s lawyer secured her release for the remaining period of five months that precede her impending trial.

This brief piece is intended to provide an account of an action pursued on behalf of a prisoner of conscience, not for the purpose of recommending such a path, but for displaying one possible and realized path that might be considered for future action. Whether this action itself was ultimately of any effect at all in securing the prisoner’s release is unclear, and perhaps it will remain so. Political regimes may be led to divulge a stated rationale for their actions, yet the actual reasons for their decisions frequently remain hidden.

I learned of İřtar Gözaydın’s arrest through an email message from a colleague about 30 hours after her arrest. My only contact with İřtar prior to that news involved a mutual effort to organize an anti-corruption conference on behalf of the [International Development Ethics Association](#), a conference that was to take place in Istanbul during the previous summer. All organizers agreed a few months before the event, just as we were assembling the final program, that dwindling intellectual freedom and degrading security conditions would make cancellation a prudent choice. Several days after the conference would have closed, terrorists took forty-five lives at the international terminal of Istanbul’s Atatürk airport. Two weeks later, on the night of 15 July 2016, Turkey suffered a failed coup attempt that was quickly routed. The coup attempt succeeded at robbing the lives of over 300 people, both civilian and military in about equal numbers.

Alongside the great majority of the Turkish population, İřtar Gözaydın voiced strong opposition to the coup as events occurred. Several days following the failure of the attempt, she also voiced strong opposition to the use of the death penalty under the aegis of government. The pairing of these perspectives reflected her longstanding commitment to democratic politics and to human rights, as displayed in her role as a founder of the Turkish branch of [Helsinki Citizens' Assembly](#) two decades ago, in her consultation on behalf of the European Court of Human Rights, and in more recent work with the main party of the opposition, the Republican People's Party. But voicing her opposition to the death penalty led to her suspension as Chair of the Department of Sociology at Gediz University a week following the coup. Such swift action did not spare the administration of Gediz, which was among 15 private universities [closed by Turkish authorities on 23 July 2016](#).

These events bring the narrative up to the time of Gözaydın's detention. Active support for publicizing her case was swiftly mobilized. Gözaydın's student and colleague Ahmet Erdi Öztürk rushed forward the planned publication of [a co-authored political opinion piece](#), which appeared on the web the day following her detention. On the same day, [a liberal news source presented a notice of the detention online](#). By two days' time, [a lengthy letter of protest had been published](#) by Middle East Studies Association, providing a useful general source of information from which others could draw. Through this period a network of local and international friends and colleagues entered into chains of communication by email. New connections were fostered via word of mouth and connections visible on facebook. Responsibilities for maintaining communication were parceled out: communications within Turkey were streamed separately from those outside of the country, to allow different strategies of action to emerge.

By five days, the International Development Ethics Association had approved a letter to complement that from Middle East Studies Association, [and the letter was posted upon a webpage](#) that would serve as a source of information that would be updated as further news became available. By ten days, the [World Observatory Against Torture](#) had presented notes for pursuit of activism and the [first of several online petitions](#) was made available. The effort had built over ten days from communication networks, to public notices, to letters from academic organizations, to petitions and to a stable, developing web presence. All these events occurred in the period approaching the new year, when communications might be expected to have been at a lull.

Swift publicity and a stable communications network had been achieved. Several nodes in the network revisited the case at weekly intervals, which allowed for a continuous effort of publicity and expansion over the following 90 days. Queries to academic soci

eties requesting letters of protest or mobilization of membership behind a petition would lead to suggestions for connections to other societies and knowledgeable representatives. Contacts with expatriate Turkish politicians provided further visibility and insight. Organizers developed a plan for publicity focused at the 100 day mark, with a press release and notification directed to news sources on day 97. Other plans that did not reach completion, but which might have been developed later, included half-day conferences publicizing academic conditions in Turkey and informational events for reporters at the USA's National Press Club, a venue at which information can be provided to attentive journalists.

Dr Gozaydin was released on her 100<sup>th</sup> day. Her trial date is set for 12 September 2017. She is charged with membership in the Gülen religious and social movement, which the government of Turkey has referred to as a terrorist organization that they hold to be the foundation of the 2016 coup attempt. The supposed evidence for Dr Gozaydin's membership includes her notes and scholarly writing. She first turned her attention to Diyanet, the state's religious affairs directorate, in her graduate work at Istanbul University. That writing was pursued and published in 1993, nearly a decade before the ruling Justice and Development Party severed its close alliance with The Gülen movement. In recent writing for the Huffington Post, [Karabekir Akkoyunlu writes](#) of the government's effort to "retrospectively criminalise academic research and activities on issues that were only a couple of years ago being openly and extensively debated in the public sphere." He cites Dr. Gozaydin's case as a prominent example of a developing trend: "Scholars who have conducted research about the relationship between religion, business and politics in Turkey, and have established contacts with Gülen supporters and business affiliates in the process, now risk being labelled as coup supporters."

As of March 2017, the international NGO [Scholars at Risk](#) had verified at least 607 detentions of, or warrants issued for, higher education personnel and at least 148 recent legal prosecutions of scholars, students, and other higher education personnel. As I write this, ten days following a vote that approves changes in the constitution that would further centralize power, Turkey has issued new detention orders for [3,224 people over alleged links to last year's failed coup](#).

**ERIC PALMER** is Professor of Philosophy at Allegheny College. His academic work focuses primarily in two areas: development ethics and history and philosophy of science. He is co-editor of [Journal of Global Ethics](#) and is President of the [International Development Ethics Association](#).

## HOW I GOT INTO HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP

I became a human rights scholar by going down a long and winding road— from Soviet studies to East German expert to being one of many planners of a human rights biennium at the University of Connecticut.

Of course, I could hardly have taught about and studied Communist regimes without learning and thinking about the reality of rights (or rather, their denial) for people living under these regimes. I increasingly incorporated human rights materials in my syllabi and published work. Here I was helped by the work of two friends and human rights colleagues, Peter Juviler (author of *Freedom's Ordeal*, Penn, 1998 and head of a human rights program at Columbia,) and Jeri Laber (who recounts her human rights career in *The Courage of Strangers*, Public Affairs 2002; she helped found both Helsinki and Human Rights Watch.) My final transition from Soviet and German studies (although not from human rights issues in these countries) was eased by some post-retirement teaching. Of necessity, I read widely in human rights literature to prepare for teaching courses on comparative human rights issues (2003, 2004.)

In the mid-1990s, I was lucky to have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the academic side of a two-year program that took place at the University of Connecticut. In that program, building on the work of the late Senator Thomas Dodd at Nuremberg, we presented a rich program of lectures, films, symposia and public events around the theme of Fifty Years After Nuremberg: Human Rights and The Rule of Law (1995-6). I did academic event planning for our main campus at Storrs, which gave me a unique opportunity to meet scholars, public officials, human rights activists and eager students from all parts of the United States, as well as other countries. The program fostered the establishment of a Dodd Research Center, dedicated by then President Bill Clinton. It lead, some years later, to the establishment of our outstanding Human Rights Institute.

The program of the Institute is overseen by a Gladstein Committee, on which I have served since 2000.

In recent years, I have participated in human rights organizations, especially our Research Committee 26 in IPSA and the interdisciplinary and international meetings generated by the human rights sections of the ISA, APSA IPSA and the European Consortium. I attended the 2015 Hague meeting and gave a paper at the 2016 meeting at Fordham University in New York. I joined the IPSA human rights RC at the Montreal congress in 2014, serving as it secretary for two years. To my regret, I was unable to attend the Istanbul/Poznan meetings last summer.

In my own work, I have focused on the political framework for restraints on speech, particularly on denial/assertion of genocides, where I hope to explain and illustrate a general framework in laws administrative decrees and judicial judgments. I have used my background as a student of German politics to analyze the controversy over publication Germany of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

**HENRY KRSICH** IS PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT IN THE U.S.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Call for Roundtable Abstracts

ECPR General Conference Panel on Academic Freedom

(University of Oslo, Norway, September 9, 2017)

The whirlwind of changes taking place in the international community reminds us of the importance of staying mindful, alert and committed to the fundamental values that the global academic community holds dear. The values include academic freedom and human rights protection which belong to the large rubric of democracy. While populist nationalism is on the rise in Europe, we are anxiously awaiting the election results of France and the Netherlands. The anxiety reflects the global shockwave originated from the Brexit and electoral victory of Donald Trump last year. In this shifting milieu we have been witnessing the visible erosion of democratic norms in various parts of the world. We are thus increasingly concerned about the grave consequences of the precarious political upheavals for academia.

Where are we headed? What can be done? Where to draw the line between academic research and political activism? How to address the controversial topics pertaining to academic freedom (ex. freedom of speech, etc.) and human rights violations (ex. defamation, etc.)? How to negotiate between normative ideals and reality of academic survival?

A roundtable panel will be devoted to the issues on academic freedom during the 2017 ECPR general conference at University of Oslo, Norway, on September 9, 2017. The panel aims to address the following specific questions on academic freedom in the contemporary socio-political milieu:

- What are the strategies to better protect academic freedom?
- How can we contextualize the increasing challenges?
- How can we promote solidarity across the global academic community?
- What are the diagnoses as well as prognoses of increasing challenges?



Please submit an abstract of about 200 words on your opinions and ideas on the issues of academic freedom by May 10 to [mkkim\\_33@hotmail.com](mailto:mkkim_33@hotmail.com) (Mikyoung Kim, IPSA RC26 Chair). The review results will be notified by May 25, 2017.

*\*Please circulate this call for roundtable abstracts as widely as possible.\**

## ***The Age of Human Rights Journal***

<http://revistaselectronicas.ujaen.es/index.php/TAHRJ>

*The Human Rights Age Journal* is a scientific journal of international relevance, published in English, peer-reviewed and open-access, containing papers concerning Human Rights from different approaches. This Journal is edited in the framework of the Research Group “The Age of Rights”, composed by about one hundred researchers belonging to some of the most important human rights research groups in Spain.

Among the members of the Scientific Board are such relevant scholars as Robert Alexy, Joana Abrisketa, Kai Ambos, Reiner Arnold, Fareda Banda, Martha N. Bello Albarracín, Emmanuel Décaux, Elías Díaz, Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Todd Landman, Massimo La Torre, Mario Losano, Javier de Lucas, Susan Millns, Ramon Paniagua, Antonio E. Pérez Luño, Philip Pettit, or Richard Wilson.

The Journal has been included in the catalogues of LATINDEX, ISOC (CSIC), DIALNET and REDIB.

Call for Papers

**Submission instructions:**

<http://revistaselectronicas.ujaen.es/index.php/TAHRJ/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>

Manuscripts should be sent to

[tahrj@ujaen.es](mailto:tahrj@ujaen.es)

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## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Mikyoung Kim. 2017. *Challenges of Modernization and Governance in South Korea: The Sinking of Sewol and Its Causes*. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan (with Jae-Jung Suh, co-editors).

Mikyoung Kim. 2017. "Sino-China Relations: Blood Allies Without Mutual Trust," *China Policy Analysis*, February 2, 2017.

<https://cpianalysis.org/2017/01/31/sino-north-korean-relations-blood-allies-without-mutual-trust/>

Mikyoung Kim. 2017. "Abe Sinzo's Foreign Policy," *The Korea Times*, February 28, 2017 ([http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/04/162\\_224788.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2017/04/162_224788.html)).

Mikyoung Kim. 2016. "Donald, Melania Go to White House," *The Korea Times*, November 16, 2016.

([http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2016/11/137\\_218342.html](http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2016/11/137_218342.html))

Mikyoung Kim. 2016. "North Korean Human Rights in Japan," *The Korea Times*, October 10, 2016.

([http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2016/10/137\\_215759.html](http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2016/10/137_215759.html))

González-Chavarría, Alexander. **Derechos humanos y gobernanza política en Colombia**. Ciudad de México: El Colegio de México, 2017, 316 p. ISBN 978-607-628-109-3

Human Rights and Political Governance in Colombia addresses the process of changing the model of regulation of the human rights problematic in Colombia in the period 2002-2006, from a multi-scale and multi-agent political governance approach. Its objective is to contribute to the understanding of a collective effort made by different actors to seek alternatives to regulate this problem precisely when the

internal armed conflict in Colombia was in one of its most critical moments. The results for the period studied show how political contradictors can generate creative regulatory solutions that count as true institutional innovations. They highlight and analyze the obstacles that arose along the way and the strategies that were used to overcome them and to be able to advance in the proposed goals.

The work seeks to be relevant to deepen the discussion and identification of alternatives on mechanisms and institutional designs appropriate to guarantee, protect and respect human rights. For the Colombian case, this study seeks to contribute to the debate that opens on the role of human rights in the new stage of transitional justice that promises to start in the country once the peace agreement in Havana is signed. Includes bibliographical references

Ioannides, Isabelle, "The effects of human rights related clauses in the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and the EU-Chile Association Agreement" and is publicly available at the following link:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/558764/EPRS\\_STU%282017%29558764\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/558764/EPRS_STU%282017%29558764_EN.pdf)

Herberg-Rothe, Andreas and Son, Key-young, Order wars and floating balance. How the rising powers are reshaping our world view in the twenty-first century. Routledge: London/New York July 2017.

## **PROMOTION**

### **MEMBER AWARDS/**

### **GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS**

Mikyong Kim's book, *Routledge Handbook of Memory and Reconciliation in East Asia* (New York and London: Routledge, October 2015) has won the Best Book of the Year Award by the Korean Ministry of Education on December 28, 2016.

## **JOB OPENINGS**

## LINKS

\*Next ECPR General Conference will be held at University of Oslo, Norway, during 6-9 September, 2017. There will be an RC26 Roundtable Panel dedicated to the issues and topics related to Academic Freedom on 9 September. Please submit 200-word abstract on your opinions and positions to [mkkim\\_33@hotmail.com](mailto:mkkim_33@hotmail.com) by 15 May. The review result will be notified by 25 May. For more information, visit <https://ecpr.eu/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=96>.

\*Next IPSA World Congress will be held in Brisbane, Australia during 21 and 26 of July 2018

For more information visit <https://wc2018.ipsa.org>

New Membership Features for 2017: Global South Membership Category



IPSA is glad to announce that it has created new membership category that will help our colleagues from the Global South joining our international community of political scientists by drastically reducing their membership fees, therefore supporting IPSA's mandate to be inclusive, globally present and to develop political science in the whole world.

From now on, every citizen of a low and lower middle income country to complete an IPSA membership will be given access to a new membership category called the Global South Membership.

The rates of the Global South Membership will be as follow:

### **Global South Membership 2017-2018**

Regular 2-years	US\$ 80
Senior 2-years	US\$ 30
Student 1-year	US\$ 5
Student 2-years	US\$ 10

These rates represent significant discounts, reaching up from 53% to 89% discount off the regular membership price.

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Here is the list of countries that will benefit from the Global South Membership for 2017:

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Bhutan	Kenya	Sao Tome and Princes
Bolivia	Kiribati	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Kosovo	Sierra Leone
Burundi	Kyrgyzstan	Solomon Islands
Cape Verde	Laos	Somalia
Cambodia	Lesotho	Sudan
Cameroon	Liberia	Sri Lanka
Central African Republic	Madagascar	Sudan
Chad	Malawi	Swaziland
Comoros	Mali	Syria
Congo (Brazzaville)	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Congo (Kinshasa)	Micronesia	Tanzania
Djibouti	Moldova	Togo
Egypt	Mongolia	Tonga
El Salvador	Morocco	Tunisia
Eritrea	Mozambique	Uganda
Ethiopia	Myanmar	Ukraine
Gambia	Nepal	Uzbekistan
Ghana	Nicaragua	Vanuatu
Guatemala	Niger	Vietnam
Guinea	Nigeria	Yemen
Guinea-Bissau	North Korea	Zambia
Haiti	Pakistan	Zimbabwe

This list will be adjusted at the beginning of every year to follow the updates of the [World Bank's lists](#).

We sincerely hope that academics from these countries will take advantage from the incentives in place to join our international community of political scientists.

Please help share the good news with your networks!

For more details, visit <https://www.ipsa.org/>

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visit <http://rc26.ipsa.org/>