

HUMAN RIGHTS

Research Committee 26

IPSA International Political Science Association

Message from the Chair



Newsletter no. 11
October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first time I am writing to the Research Committee members in my new capacity as Chair. You will have no doubt received my emails, over the last 3 years, from when I was the IPSA RC26 Secretary.

I would like to thank my predecessors Alexander Sungurov, Mikyoung Kim, Anja Mihr, Fursun Turkmen, Zehra Arat, with whom I have had the privilege of working on the IPSA RC26 Board and who have contributed to the development of Political Science studies, in particular, human rights topics.

The Research Committee started its activities in 1987 and in the recent IPSA Virtual World Congress, held in July 2021, it organised ten panels. We would like to promote an active membership in IPSA RC26. We have set up a new human rights blog (<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>), and there will be new contributions every month from human rights scholars and activists. If you are interested in writing a

What's inside?

1. Virtual World Congress, July 2021

2.- IPSAmooc

3.- Poznan conference December 2021

4.- Jeffrey Davis on disappeared children

5.- Monique Falccão on animals rights

and much more...

a piece for this blog, please write to Tatiana Barandova tanchobara@gmail.com and Monique Falcao mqfalcao@gmail.com

We would like to have a good exchange of information between the RC26 community members. We have created channels on the social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and are really looking forward to a significant number of the RC26 members joining these networks and fostering a digital academic community on human rights.

As you may know, we have been working on several initiatives and our primary objective will be to continue these in the coming months. On 9-10 December, an online and presential conference will be held at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan. The topic will be “how have years 2020-2021 changed the world? New challenges to human rights in the 21st century”, which will be organised by Jędrzej Skrzypczak, RC26 Chair-elect. More updated information is in this Newsletter.

In April or May 2022, an online and presential conference on “Culture of Peace and Human Rights in the scope of the democracy challenges” will be held at the Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, which will be organised by Professor Alex Sander Xavier Pires.

Chair:

Oscar Pérez de la Fuente
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In June and July 2022, a series of webinars on digital minorities will be held, organised by Jędrzej Skrzypczak and I. If you are interested in one of these events, please write to humanrights@webphilosophia.com

Our second objective is to foster relationships with other IPSA Research Committees and other Associations linked with human rights. We look forward to working together and collaborating to achieve this and are open to exploring different possibilities. Third, this is a good opportunity to develop a strategy for this Research Committee to conceive Human Rights Studies as an interdisciplinary field. I strongly believe that the RC26 community's greatest strength lies in an approach transcending disciplines, with more academic debates from different methodologies and human rights as the common language.

Fourth, the vital link between theory and practice of human rights. As we know, it is not enough to only have great scientific rigour, but also a degree of civic commitment. Human rights practitioners and activists also have a recognisable voice. So, we must take into account the practice of human rights... and, of course, the theory!

My final remark is to use technology to share information between IPSA RC26 members, for instance, via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn RC26 new channels.

I would like to have open communication with all IPSA RC26 members. Please write to humanrights@webphilosophia.com if you have any comment, suggestion or would like to share information. I would be happy to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Oscar Pérez de la Fuente
Chair
IPSA RC26 on human rights

26th WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, Virtual, 10-15 July 2021

The IPSA Virtual World Congress has just ended and we would like to thank the following people for being one of the R26 workshop chairs at this World Congress: Ms. Kateryna Dyshkantyuk, Dr. Michael Kilburn, Prof. Praveen, K Chaudhry, Prof. Kenneth Christie, Dr. Alex Sander Xavier Pires, Dr. Anja Mihr, Miss Romana Pinhal, Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Prof. Alexander Sungurov, Prof. Jeremy Sarkin, Prof. Tine Destrooper, Dr. Annie Miller.

We also would like to thank the following people for being one of the R26 workshop discussants at this World Congress: Dr. Monique Falcão, Mr. Hari Jnawali, Mr. Haval Ahmad, Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai, Dr. Luciene Dal Ri, Dr. Tomasz Litwin, Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente, Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Ms. Ayako Inokuchi, Prof. Jeremy Sarkin, Miss Bruna Ferrari Pereira.

We also would like to thank all papers-giver to this RC26 Workshops.

It is also a good moment to also thank the former members of the Board, Zehra Arat, Ayako Inokuchi and Ripu Sudan Singh. We are really grateful to Alexander Sungurov for being IPSA Rc26 Chair during this difficult period from 2018 to 2021.

From the Rc26 business meeting, a new Board was elected. Oscar Pérez de la Fuente has been elected as new IPSA RC26 Chair, Jędrzej Skrzypczak, as new Chair-elect and Tatiana L. Barandova as new Secretary. The new members of the Board are Annie Miller, Bruno Konder Comparato, Jeffrey Davis and Monique Falcao. You will find the new Board members' details by clicking this link:

<https://buff.ly/3zby6pY>

RC26 IPSA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, 9 - 10 December 2021 “HOW HAVE YEARS 2020-2021 CHANGED THE WORLD?”

The Community of Research Committee 26 of IPSA will celebrate Human Rights Day in 2021, organising the international symposium at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

“How have years 2020-2021 changed the world?”

The main thread of this event will revolve around the influence of the unprecedented health crisis worldwide on human rights protection. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of human and social life. This situation has required unusual solutions, regulations, and a solid response to limit the disease’s spread and protect societies.

However, it could be an excuse to introduce oppressive surveillance and undermine human rights, e.g., political, social, and cultural rights, especially the freedom of expression and the right to privacy. The W.H.O. proclamation of the COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 led many countries to declare a state of emergency and grant extraordinary powers to their governments.

This symposium will be organised in 5 panels, with the following topics: a) Democracy and political rights under lockdown, b) The right to health and health-care and equitable access to vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic, c) The impact of the health crisis on freedom of expression and media freedom, d) Freedom of movement and privacy in the time of COVID-19 pandemic, e) Key human rights during COVID-19 pandemic. Impact of COVID-19 on some aspects of human rights.

The two panels will be held simultaneously in the local language (Polish):

- Democracy and human rights under lockdown,
- The right to health and health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key speakers of the conference will be Prof. Felipe González Morales - Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and Professor Adam Bodnar, former Polish Ombudsman (2017-2021). The organisers have received a few dozen exciting proposals for papers from several continents. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the symposium will be held in a hybrid format. Detailed information and the programme of the conference will be available soon on the conference website

<http://poznanconference2021.webphilosophia.com>

IPSAMOOC (Massive Open Online Course)

IPSAMOOC is a joint project of the University of Naples Federico II and the Center for Innovation, Experimentation and Dissemination of Multimedia Distance Learning. It is a joint project from IPSA and Federica WebLearning.

Authored by some of the most outstanding academics in the IPSA community, IPSAMOOC is a joint project from IPSA and Federica WebLearning. The Center is devoted to innovation, experimentation and dissemination of multimedia distance learning at the University of Naples Federico II.

IPSAMOOCs are an essential tool for a wide number of users: students who are considering or starting a degree in Political Science; professors and lecturers at any level, who can innovatively complement their existing courses; anyone interested in a better understanding of the challenges facing contemporary democracies.

The IPSAMOOCs are now also available on edX, the leading MOOC platform founded by Harvard & MIT. All the courses are open, and are free of charge, with a certification available for learners who successfully complete the content and assignments. A small fee is payable for issue of the certificate.

Five of the IPSAMOOCs form part of an XSeries, a new frontier in alternative online qualifications. It combines a set of related MOOCs to form a comprehensive curriculum, leading to a professional certificate that can be included on CVs and applications. The IPSAMOOC XSeries is the first online highly qualified and certified core curriculum in Political Science from a global provider.

If you are interested in participating in IPSAMooc, please write an email to:

humanrights@webphilosophia.com

DISAPPEARED CHILDREN, QUESTIONS OF CONFLICTING RIGHTS, AND THE RIGHTS TO TRUTH AND A JUDICIAL REMEDY

Jeffrey Davis,
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In March 2016, Irish authorities excavated a mass grave revealing the remains of more than 800 children at the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. At another site, Bassborough, a mass grave of more than nine hundred children was uncovered a year later. These homes were created by the Irish government with the Catholic Church to house unwed mothers, while encouraging forced adoption. They operated from the 1920s until 1998. In 2014 the government established the Commission of Investigation to investigate the extent of the abuse inflicted in these homes and in January 2021, it issued its report. Though the Commission revealed significant evidence of abuse and neglect, and though it recommended several concrete steps to redress those violations, human rights advocates criticized the report for sealing witness testimony and personal identifying information. One advocacy group claimed the Commission destroyed recordings of testimony from 550 witnesses without creating transcripts.

Uxenu Ablaña was six years old when he was forced into a Catholic run orphanage after Spanish police killed his parents for opposing Franco in the Civil War. Over the next 12 years Uxenu was called a “communist devil,” beaten, and abused. An estimated 31,000 children were taken from their families and placed in state sponsored institutions in Spain between 1945 and 1954. Tens of thousands more were allegedly taken from their mothers at birth and placed with families deemed more in line with the Franco regime’s ideology. American and Canadian officials inflicted similar violations on indigenous children by coercing them into Residential Schools. Here too mass graves have been uncovered. Argentina implemented mandatory DNA testing to arm people with the tools necessary to reveal the truth about the children disappeared during its dirty war. This raised controversies over the surviving children’s right to privacy.

When a state takes a child from her family and confines her to an institution, or unlawfully places her with more “socially or politically desirable” parents, the states’ actions attack the foundations of human dignity and identity. The allegations provoke complex and desperately important questions of human rights that are generalizable to numerous areas of the field:

- What does human rights law demand of states when confronted with allegations of past (perhaps distant past) violations? In overcoming impunity, the rights to truth and to a judicial remedy are perhaps the most important but some democracies still refuse to acknowledge these positive obligations.

- To what extent can private actors be held accountable. In many of the missing children cases the Catholic Church operated the institutions in question.

- Can human rights conflict with one another? These stories also demand that we conceptualize rights precisely to minimize claims that the assertion of one right infringes on another. We hear claims of conflicting rights from the religious shopkeeper who wishes to deny service to LGBTQ+ customers, or when the radio personality claims the free expression rights to attack a group in his society. Or when a child – now grown – claims her right to privacy bars the disclosure of her story to biological family members demanding their right to truth.

- This heartbreaking controversy brings forth another question; who possesses rights like the right to truth and to a judicial remedy? When a child is forcibly taken and placed with another family is the biological grandparent entitled to the truth to the same degree as the child him self? Are they both victims of the same violation?

In her study of the Argentine case, Professor Elizabeth Ludwin King argues that since there is no precedent determining a hierarchy of the rights to truth and privacy, the state may make that determination. On the other hand, in his book, *The Promise of Human Rights*, Jamie Mayerfeld suggests that, if the restrictions and obligations of a right are precisely defined, they will rarely conflict. Mayerfeld’s suggestion is instructive in this context. Perhaps we may protect a child’s right to hold the details of her biological origins private if we tailor the biological uncle’s

right to truth strictly to the violation he suffered. On the other hand, a child's right to privacy perhaps should not extend to preventing a biological mother from knowing the identity of a son stolen from her at birth. As Professor Mégret explained in his analysis of Argentina, this raises the issue of how we conceptualize victimhood for certain rights violations. Scholars, courts, and legislators must carefully balance these weighty concerns when outlining the boundaries of these rights.

States undoubtedly have a positive obligation to enforce the rights to truth and to a judicial remedy against state officials and private actors. In *O'Keefe v. Ireland* (2014) the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the state was liable for sexual abuse committed at church run schools. According to the Court, Ireland fell short of its positive obligation to protect the children in these schools from abuse. The Inter-American Court has also ruled that states have the positive obligation to protect children from abuse, and to investigate allegations of the forced disappearance and illegal placement of missing children. Many of the violations against children and families alleged in these nations involve people and events from the distant past, where all or most who were directly involved have passed away. In these cases, the state still has the obligation to reveal the truth and restore the dignity of the surviving family members and communities.

The rights to truth and to a judicial remedy must be diligently pursued. Otherwise, as the European Court of Human Rights recently explained, without justice human rights protections would "be ineffective in practice and it would be possible in some cases for agents of the State to abuse the rights of those within their control with virtual impunity."

Online version available at: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/96>

CALL FOR INFORMATION: HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTES

We are interested in establishing links with Human Rights Institutes around the world. We would like to obtain the name of contact person, their email and Institute website. This information will be used to foster networking and will be distributed to the persons whose contact information has been provided.

If you are a member of a Human Rights Institute or you have knowledge of them, please send an email with the contact details to:

humanrights@webphilosophia.com

HOW CAN ANIMAL'S RIGHTS IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS

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That is an essay about the benefits offered by Animal's Rights to Human Rights - HR on XXI century.

One of the most important consequences from II WW was the world campaign to promote HR as absolute values for States and Civil Societies – quite successful at Occident considering internationals and global normative systems for HR protection. One of its main concrete expression is the promotion of public policies for inclusion for minorities, which has been historically neglected or explored.

On social level, the improvement of HR comes from the dialectics between two sources. First, the social claims for minorities inclusions – which guarantee legitimation for respective public policies. Second, the normative force from law in order to obligate social actors and institutions to accomplish public policies – which guarantee legality and rationality for minorities' social inclusions.

As result, at medium and long term, it is possible to realize material changes in social representations for those minorities, which improves absolute and rational values of individual rights and solidarity on the respective society. The general hypothesis I would like to discuss is that, historically, the gradual recognition and the inclusion of specific social groups has as main effect the improvement of general and absolute values that bases HR.

As a example, if we make the exercise to resignificate Animal's Rights as a kind of minority rights, it is possible to recognize the same contributions for HR improvement on social level. Mostly when civil society reveals strong engagement.

There are three legal aspects to be highlighted. i) animals are officially object of law which means they don't have civil capacity to act in lawsuits, and, by law, the recognition of some rights for some species is the exception, not the rule; ii) animal's protection is officially justified not as autonomous right, but as part of "environment protection" on behalf of HR – anthropocentric epistemology; iii) Animal's Rights are procedurally classified as collective right, so the environmental questions officially should be persecuted in collective lawsuits, proposed by Public Ministry or NGO.

The most innovation decisions for Animal's Rights come from Judicial Power attending social claims, since 30 years ago, founded on 1988 Brazilian Constitution, in which the aspects I and ii are being reshaped by Jurisprudence in order to recognize the enlargement of animal's rights. The most part of lawsuits is being proposed by NGO, revealing specific and huge demand from civil society to reduce animal abuse.

As illustration, I present some cases of Animal's Rights in Brazil, where Judicial Activism has as main role the minority's rights enforcement in a context of a patriarchal and rural-aristocratic society. I) the interdiction of cock fights, bull fights and dog fights although it's strong cultural and economic relevance for some social and economic groups; ii) the interdiction to promote euthanasia of healthy animals rescued from abuse or from the streets, historically used as public policy for animal population control are the most relevant decisions.

The Legislative and the Executive powers also takes action to increase social rights for animals, to improve Public Power's liability to fight animal abuse, and to expand economic actors' liability for non-contractual damages caused to animals.

Those are the legality aspect prevailing Animal's Rights over traditional social and economic interests.

Besides, several websites, social networks profiles and press agencies specialized in Animal's Rights have been increasing and becoming popular on the last years. Population controls and denunciates animal's abuse on public and private space. The "pet" economic sector is strengthening. Veterinary and Animal's wellness courses are increasing. Vegan market and cruelty-free brands are replacing old practices with animal suffering. Scientific experiments rationalizes animal use to the minimum possible and reduces its suffering. Animal's Rights movements become respectable and listened by government and companies. Animal's Rights become part of company's compliance programs.

Those are the legitimacy aspect consolidating the increase of social representation for absolute values of individual rights and solidarity.

Historically, minorities' rights are being gradually consolidated, on waves of improvement. Equality of gender and race, recognition of special rights for children and aged people, social inclusion for disable people are examples of differences overcame in anthropocentric perspective. It's also happening for Animal's Rights.

So, from this point of view, the specific contribution from Animal's Rights to HR is to expand the spectrum of legality and legitimacy beyond anthropocentric epistemology. Even if Animal's Rights continue to be founded on anthropocentric perspective, its increasing legitimacy and legality allows us to propose the specific hypothesis that there is special social claim to reduce violence and abuse in absolute terms, improving life and individual rights as a rational value to be applied to all species and to be respected by all social groups. For social psychology and recognitions theories, its importance can be studied on solidarity conception enforcement, for instance. It can also be studied as expansion of HR scope and enforcement of HR values towards an ecocentric epistemology, in which the species would have absolute values to be respected, largely than only for human specie.

Online version available at: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/104>

New IPSA RC26 blog and social networks

You can find the new Human rights Journals -in Scopus and Web of Science- list by clicking this link:

<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/human-rights-journals-list>

You can find the Human rights institutes list by clicking this link:

<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/human-rights-institutes-list>

Please join the new IPSA RC26 social networks:

Blog:

<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1262291640875256>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ipsarc26>

Linkedin:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12552268/>

Official website:

<http://rc26.ipsa.org>

Call for Papers

The Age of Human Rights Journal

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

The Age of Human Rights Journal is a scientific journal of international relevance, published in English, peer-reviewed and open-access, containing papers concerning Human Rights from different approaches.

The Journal has been included in SCOPUS and in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (Web of Science).

It is also in: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), LATIN-DEX (catalogue), ISOC (CSIC), DIALNET, CIRC, ERIH PLUS, CARHUS PLUS, MIAR, ULRICH'S, OCLC, WORLDCAT, REDIB, EUROPUB, and Philosopher's Index.

The call for papers is for the issue that will be published in June
2022

Submission deadline: January 1st 2022

Preferably, manuscripts should be directly uploaded to the journal platform, but they can also be sent to tahrj@ujaen.es

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS:

IPPA is excited to announce the return of its International Workshops on Public Policy. The third edition of IWPP will be organized in a hybrid format from June 28 - 30, 2022, in Budapest, Hungary.

The call for workshops for IWPP3 is now open!!! Do not miss the chance to submit your workshop proposals before October 31, 2021. More details: <https://bit.ly/2Z24XRb>

Publications

Cécile B. Vigouroux & Salikoko S. Mufwene (eds.) 2020. Bridging Linguistics and Economics. Cambridge University Press.

<https://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/languages-linguistics/sociolinguistics/bridging-linguistics-and-economics?format=HB>

Salikoko S. Mufwene. 2021. "Linguistic diversity, formal education, and economic development: The Sub-Saharan African chicken-and-egg dilemma?" In Language & the Sustainable Development Goals, ed. by Philip Harding-Esch & Hywel Coleman, 153-164. London: British Council.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Palgrave Macmillan Studies on Human Rights in Asia

Series Editor:

Mikyong Kim, Pukyong National University, South Korea

ABOUT THE SERIES

This Palgrave Macmillan book series addresses the rising interest in human rights topics in Asia. It focuses on the largely underexplored territory of Asian human rights topics highlighting its empirical manifestations, historical trajectory and theoretical implications. It also goes beyond the problematic dichotomy between “East” and “West” by engaging in rigorous case-specific as well as cross-regional comparisons within South-South context. China’s rise in world politics and its emergence as a massive donor, for example, has significant yet troubling implications. The member countries of ASEAN and Northeast Asia, on the other hand, would have different preoccupations and priorities calling for context-sensitive diagnosis and prognosis to promote human right causes. The series is multidisciplinary in nature and open to submissions focusing on international organization, ethics, criminology, development, freedom of expression, labour rights, environment, human/sex trafficking, democratization, governance studies, disability, reproductive rights, LGBT, post-/colonial as well as post-/authoritarian critiques and social movement, among others. The series publishes full-length monographs, and edited volumes.

CONTACT FOR PROPOSALS

Correspondence regarding book proposals should be addressed to Vishal Daryanomal (vishal.daryanomal@palgrave.com).

Promotion

Prakash Adhikari, Ph.D. has been promoted to the rank of full Professor of Political Science at central Michigan University

Blog:

<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1262291640875256>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ipsarc26>

Linkedin:

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Official website:

<http://rc26.ipsa.org>