

HUMAN RIGHTS Research Committee 26 IPSA International Political Science Association

Message from the Chair



Newsletter no. 14
April 2023

Dear Colleagues,

This is the fourth time that I write as Chair to the Research Committee members.

This message is to inform current Research Committee members of the developments that have taken place in relation to the Committee over the past six months, and to provide information to all those IPSA members who are interested in conducting human rights research.

An international webinar on digital inequalities was held online in December 2022. The expositions were distributed in 2 sessions with speakers from different countries. More information in this Newsletter.

We have celebrated the human rights day -10 December- by organising an IPSA RC26 webinar. We hope this will be a new tradition for this Research Committee. This year the event

What's inside?

1. Buenos Aires 2023 WC, all deadlines and RC26 workshops.

2.- Digital inequalities and human rights day information

3.- Furqan Ahmed on Countering Violent Extremism

4.- Tomasz Litwin and free speech v. protection religious feelings

Conference news and call for papers

and much more...

was on the Russia – Ukraine conflict from the perspective of human rights. More information in this Newsletter.

If you are interested in sharing a call for papers or academic information with the IPSA RC26 members, please email humanrights@webphilosophia.com

We look forward to receiving your contribution for the human rights blog, please write to humanrights@webphilosophia.com Visit previous post at <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>

IPSA World Congress will be held from 15 to 19 July 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Our Research Committee will organise 15 panels, of which 13 will be presential and 2 will be virtual. We will include the complete list in this Newsletter. We will also inform you on the important deadlines of this World Congress.

On the IPSA RC26 governance, we would like to inform you that Tatiana Barandova resigned as Secretary some time ago. We have tried to find a substitute, but it has not been possible. All day-by-day RC26 work has been done by Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Chair-elect, and I, current Chair. We consider it the right moment to inform you of this.

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We are working to strengthen the communication and interaction within the IPSA RC26 community, to improve our academic work. We look forward to your feedback. If you have any comment or suggestion, please email humanrights@webphilosophia.com

Oscar Pérez del Fuente
Chair
IPSA RC26 on human rights

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BUENOS AIRES 2023 IPSA WOLD CONGRESS: important dates

19 APR 2023 Early-bird Registration Deadline

2 MAY 2023 Deadline to edit paper and panel proposals
Deadline to add chairs, discussants and co-authors to proposals

10 MAY 2023 Final Registration Deadline
Participants not registered are withdrawn from the Congress Program

1 JUL 2023 Paper Upload Deadline

15-19 JUL 2023 Congress Dates

Venue

Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) - Buenos Aires (MAP)

The 27th IPSA World Congress of Political Science will be held at the Universidad Católica Argentina in Buenos Aires. Located in the rejuvenated barrio of Puerto Madero on the banks of the Río de la Plata, the university is only a few hundred meters away from the city's historical landmarks, such as the majestic Plaza de Mayo. To the east across the canal can be found the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve, a magnificent waterfront park filled with forests, marshlands and lagoons offsetting the vibrant atmosphere of the Puerto Madero neighborhood.

Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA)

Av. Alicia Moreau de Justo 1300 (C1107AAZ). C.A.B.A.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 0810-2200-822 (UCA)

Business and Human Rights

Chair: Dr. João Paulo Veiga

Co-chair: Mr. Rafael Miranda

Discussants: Dr. Claudia Marconi

Challenges for Human Rights in the Context of the Global Order Transformation

Chair: Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente

Discussants: Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak

Civil, Political and Social Rights

Chair: Prof. Bartosz Hordecki

Discussants: Prof. Wojciech Nowiak

Culture of Peace and Human Rights: Awareness to Restrain the Transboundary Crises

Chair: Prof. Alex Sander Pires

Co-chair: Prof. Pedro Trovao do Rosario

Discussants: Dr. Monique Falcão, Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai

Human Rights and International Relations

Chair: Prof. Wojciech Nowiak

Discussants: Prof. Bartosz Hordecki

Human rights in the age of Transboundary crises

Chair: Dr. Suresh Kumar

Co-chair: Dr. Biplab Debnath

Discussants: Ms. Chhavi Saini

Human Rights, Conflict and Vulnerability

Chair: Prof. Tatiana Barandova

Discussants: Prof. Bruno Comparato

Human Rights, Democracy and Sovereignty

Chair: Dr. Jeffrey Davis

Discussants: Dr. Jakub Jakubowski

Human Rights, Globalisation and Identities

Chair: Mrs. Ana Cordeiro de Azevedo

Discussants: Prof. Tatiana Barandova

Human rights, Minorities and Dissent

Chair: Prof. Magdalena Musial-Karg

Discussants: Dr. Daniel Cetrà

Human Rights, Security and Crisis

Chair: Prof. Arkadiusz Zukowski

Discussant: Dr. Jeffrey Davis

Human rights, United Nations and NGOs

Chair: Prof. Bruno Comparato

Discussants: Prof. Alexander Sungurov

Political Speech, Human Rights and Technology

Chair: Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak

Discussants: Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente

**Solutions to the Human Right Violations Aftermath of the Failed Coup At-
tempt in 2016 in Turkey**

Chair: Prof. Kemal Ozden

Discussants: Ms. Cemre Ulker

The Right to Have Rights in the Age of Transboundary Crisis

Chair: Ms. Claudia Hilb

Discussants: Prof. Cristina Sanchez

BUENOS AIRES IPSA WORLS CONGRESS 2023: Plenary Speakers

JOHN ISHIYAMA

University of North Texas (UNT)

Challenges and Opportunities for a Post-Pandemic Political Science
United States

ANNA TRIANDAFYLLIDOU

Toronto Metropolitan University

Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration
Canada

Plenary: Rethinking Migration in the mid 21st Century

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE): HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Furqan Ahmed

Area Study Center for Europe, University of Karachi

email: f_ahmed_10@outlook.com

I. Introduction: In recent years, violent extremism has become a bigger problem. This issue affects global peace and development and has been widely regarded as a significant threat to the world. The CVE programs were introduced for those countries where the security situations were very critical. These programs were mainly introduced to identify and control terrorists and violent extremists. Nevertheless, alongside these CVE programs, human rights violations have been violated. The main argument of this blog post is to discuss that the CVE programs should abide by the regulations and procedures of a human rights-based approach. The need for long-term solutions has never been greater or more challenging as the risks posed by violent extremism and terrorism continue to elude prediction. According to the United Nations (UN) ‘development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. This proposition talks about how human rights approach can be beneficial in countering violent extremism for promoting tolerance and accountability.

II. The Human Rights Implications of CVE: There are numerous CVE programs whose strategies violate human rights—for instance, freedom of expression, non-discrimination or privacy. CVE programs have their share of stigmatizing and discriminating against many communities, such as targeting Muslim communities and violating their fundamental rights. The paper includes a whole section titled “Preventing Violent Extremism While Promoting Human Rights: Toward a Clarified UN Approach.” Where it discusses the two main justifications for using PVE

programs to advance human rights. First, national governments' interests and donor countries' securities often prioritized in counterterrorism narratives over the concerns of local communities and individuals. "Second, even "soft" PVE approaches can be pernicious if they exacerbate preexisting social tensions and divisions or legitimize government crackdowns and oppression that involve human rights abuses." Similarly, on March 4, 2020, a report submitted to the Human Rights Council by the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, Fionnuala N. Aolain, was referenced in an article published by the Middle East Eye (MEE), a London-based news website. In her report, N. Aolain expressed concern over how the counter-terrorism policies adopted by the United Kingdom and the United States contribute to human rights violations.

III. A Human Rights-Based Approach to CVE: Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) promotes inclusivity, accountability, and transparency. This approach supports community-led initiatives, education and awareness-raising programs, and legal remedies. Therefore, handling CVE programs as per the regulations and procedures of a human rights-based approach is beneficial.

Promoting Tolerance and Accountability in CVE: Tolerance and accountability are among the essential factors in HRBA. Community engagement, dialogue, and monitoring are vital in promoting tolerance and accountability in CVE. "The UN System has responded accordingly with the UN secretary-general's 2016 Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which recognizes the scale of the global threat and lays the groundwork for preventing violent extremism (PVE) through the UN system". International Peace Institute (IPI) produced a paper on "Preventing Violent Extremism While Promoting Human Rights: Toward a Clarified UN Approach". The paper provides significant knowledge on preventing violent extremism and implementing PVE-aligned and PVE-specific activities. The research paper mentioned above backs up the claim to combat conflict and violent extremism through a human rights-based approach of this blog.

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IV. Challenges and Criticism of a Human Rights-Based Approach to CVE: Implementation of this approach draws numerous challenges. These challenges include a need for more political will and backlash among certain groups’ potential. This approach also comes with criticism, such as a preference for individual rights over collective security. The article “The Security Versus Freedom Dilemma. An Empirical Study of the Spanish Case” by Gonzalo Herranz de Rafael and Juan S. Fernández-Prados, speaks about the Covid-19 pandemic “was not only the first event that has forced public opinion to consider the dilemma of freedom versus security in a world dominated by the influence of so-called new information and communication technologies.”

V. Conclusion: In conclusion, CVE is a very critical issue, and to resolve this issue, human rights-based approach is fundamental. Because this approach helps promote inclusivity, accountability, and transparency, implementing HRBA has numerous challenges and draws much criticism. Individuals and organizations must support human rights principles through community-led initiatives and education awareness-raising programs. Security concerns must be kept in mind while introducing solutions.

Sources/References.

1. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/counter-terrorism-programmes-prevent-cve-violate-human-rights-un>
2. https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/1907_PVE-While-Promoting-Human-Rights.pdf
3. https://oslo3.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Oslo_I_report.pdf
4. <https://community-democracies.org/app/uploads/2018/06/ai-twr-3-1.pdf>

Text digital version: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/162>

DIGITAL INEQUALITIES INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR



INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR “DIGITAL INEQUALITIES”, UNIVERSIDAD CARLOS III DE MADRID, 6-8 DECEMBER 2022.

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid was the virtual venue in December 2022 for the webinar on “Digital inequalities”, with the participation of international experts in the field. The event was held through the university’s online platform, allowing access to a wide audience interested in the topic.

The experts were divided into panels that will address different key aspects related to digital inequalities. Topics to be discussed include artificial intelligence, algorithms, disinformation, digital labour, platform economy, cybersecurity, cybercrime, video games, big data, digital public sphere, economic class, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, ageing, disability, healthcare, education, rural residence, networks and public policy, among others.

The main objective of the event is to foster dialogue and exchange of ideas between academics, practitioners and students, in order to seek solutions and novel approaches to address the challenges posed by digital inequalities in contemporary society.

In the 6 December 2022 session of this international webinar, leading experts from various academic institutions discussed issues related to inequalities in disruptive technologies, algorithms, human rights and linguistic justice. Speakers shared their research and knowledge in an event that brought together specialists from different countries and disciplines.

Rosa Maria Ricoy, from the University of Vigo, opened the event by analysing inequalities in the use of some disruptive technologies and their impact on different areas of society. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, presented a study on the digital divide from a human rights perspective, with a focus on the case of Poland in the European context. Jesús Mora, from the University of Valencia, addressed the issue of algorithmic discrimination and status hierarchies in a scenario of perfect luck egalitarianism.

Dr. hab. Bartosz Hordecki, also from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, presented on the search for linguistic justice in the case of the Ukrainian language in the Polish electronic media sphere after 24 February 2022. Oscar Pérez de la Fuente, from the Carlos III University of Madrid, addressed the issue of minorities, hate speech and the web, discussing how these problems manifest themselves in the digital environment and possible solutions. Finally, Piotr Jablonski and Monika Jablonska, also from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, discussed the technological determinism of Generation “C” and online exclusion.

In the 8 December 2022 session of this international Webinar, experts from various institutions addressed crucial issues related to the digital age and its effects on society, education and justice. The panellists came from different countries and shared their research and insights on the relationship between social media platforms and hybrid conflicts, inequalities in education and justice, and the digital inclusion of refugees in the digital public sphere in the European Union.

Captain Ádám Farkas, University of Public Service, and Roland Kelemen, Széchenyi István University, discussed the relationship between social media and hybrid conflicts, analysing how these platforms can influence conflict dynamics and the manipulation of public opinion. Lilian Castiglione Felix Silva, from Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3 - IHEAL, presented her research on whether the digital revolution can contribute to solving inequalities, exploring how technology can be a tool to combat discrimination and promote equity.

In the field of education, Cilaine Lourenço, from Universidade Cândido Mendes, and Monique Falcão, from St. Ursula University, Brazil, discussed the right to education in

Brazil and whether it is effectively guaranteed for all children and adolescents in the country. Dr. D. Ravindra Satish Babu, Yogi Vemana University, presented a case study on the digital divide in education and the judicial system in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, India, focusing on SC/ST communities. Finally, Zühal Ünalp Çepel, Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey, raised the question of whether refugee nationality influences equality within the EU digital public sphere, addressing the digital inclusion of this vulnerable population.

This academic event provided a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and share knowledge among experts from various disciplines and regions, highlighting the importance of international collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities posed by inequalities in access to technology and the digital age.

More information: <http://webinar2022.webphilosophia.com>

New IPSA RC26 blog and social networks

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.o>

FREEDOM OF SPEECH VS PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FEELINGS – THE RABCZEWSKA’S CASE BEFORE THE ECHR

Tomasz Litwin
Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, Poland

In 2012, Dorota Rabczewska (a Polish female singer and celebrity) was fined PLN 5,000 (approximately €1,165) for publicly expressing the opinion that the Bible was written by someone under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The court judgement was based on the article 196 of Polish Penal Code:

“Anyone found guilty of offending religious feelings through public calumny of an object or place of worship is liable to a fine, restriction of liberty or a maximum two-year prison sentence.”

The Polish Constitutional Tribunal in 2015 considered constitutional complaint submitted by Rabczewska and reviewed this rule. The Tribunal found it to be constitutional (Litwin, 2023).

The European Court of Human Rights judgements concerning freedom of speech and protection of religious feelings are diverse. In some cases the Court considered freedom of speech as more important: *Giniewski v. France* (2006), *Klein v. Slovakia* (2006), *Sekmadienis Ltd. v. Lithuania* (2018). In others it gave the edge to protection of religious feelings: *Otto-Preminger-Institut v. Austria* (1994), *Wingrove v. the United Kingdom* (1996), *İ.A. v. Turkey* (2005), *E.S. v. Austria* (2018) – (Litwin, 2023).

On September 15, 2022, the ECHR delivered the judgement in case *Rabczewska v. Poland* and this is the last case up to date when the Court considered the conflict of freedom of speech and protection of religious feelings. The Court, like in similar previous cases, emphasised that both freedom of expression and freedom of religion are fundamental for democratic society. The freedom of expression concerns also statements that offend, shock or disturb. However, this freedom also carries the duties and responsibilities. In case of religion – to avoid the statements gratuitously offensive to others and profane. The state is also allowed to introduce measures that will ensure

peaceful coexistence of the members of society, no matter of their religious and world-view convictions. However, the adherents of the particular religion should be prepared for a criticism of their beliefs, even a hostile one. In Rabczewska's case, the Court declared that her statement "did not amount to an improper or abusive attack on an object of religious veneration, likely to incite religious intolerance or violating the spirit of tolerance". Therefore, the Court evaluated the actions of Polish authorities as the violation of art. 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

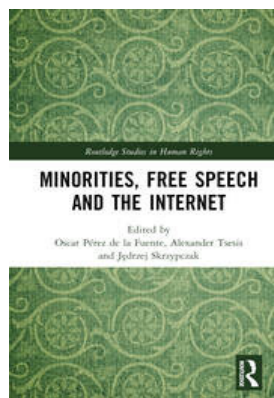
This judgement cannot be regarded as breakthrough ruling. It rather summarises the previous case-law when freedom of speech collides with the protection of religious feelings. There is no general rule to solve such conflict of two values, both protected by the Convention. In every case the Court has to balance both values and carefully analyse the substance of the controversial statement. The offensive character of the statement is not enough to limit the freedom of speech. Such limitation should be considered if the statement could be regarded as broadly understood hate speech towards the adherents of the particular religion or as endangering the peaceful coexistence of religious and non-religious groups and individuals in the particular state.

Such position of the Court should be supported, however some of its conclusions need further consideration. In general, the freedom of speech guarantees the right to criticise the particular religion or the religion in general, understood as the set of philosophical principles of how to live inspired by some conception of deity. Only the statements that endanger the particular person or group of persons because of their religious beliefs should be penalized, not those that strongly provoke them, potentially even causing riots. The doubts concerning the interpretation of the statement should be considered according to the principle in dubio pro libertate, supporting the freedom of speech. Therefore the potential state protection should concern only adherents of the religion but not its deity, prophets, ministrants, sacred texts or principles.

Litwin, T. 2023. "The Freedom of Speech and the Protection of Religious Feelings: The Case of Dorota Rabczewska – Comparative Analysis." In: O. Pérez de la Fuente, A. Tsesis, J. Skrzypczak (eds.). *Minorities, Free Speech and the Internet*. London: Taylor & Francis Ltd: Chapter 13.

Rabczewska v. Poland [2023] App. no 8257/13.

Text digital version: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/158>



Pérez de la Fuente, Oscar, Tsesis, Alexander, Skrzypczak, Jędrzej (eds.), *Minorities, Free Speech and the Internet*, Routledge, London, 2023, 250 pp. ISBN 978-10-3222-835-8

Minorities, Free Speech and the Internet explores the regulation of free speech online and offline. These papers have been delivered in a IPSA RC26 on human rights webinar.

Views are divided as to how much regulation of the Internet is appropriate. Some argue that it should be an unregulated space for free content. On the other hand, in many democracies, online hate speech, harassment and xenophobia are prohibited and punished. This book provides a forum for leading international scholars to address domestic and comparative dimensions of this complex legal conundrum. First, the authors analyse the free speech and Internet regulations in different legal cultures, including the United States, Europe, China and Russia. Second, they study fake news, extreme right speech and the implications of hate speech on pluralistic society. Third, they examine different case law addressing minority sensibilities, historical discriminations, offensive propaganda and other issues particularly concerning minorities and free speech.

This book will be of interest to students and scholars interested in the topics of hate speech and minorities, democracy, misinformation and debates about the Internet, as well as political science researchers.

More information by clicking this link:

<https://www.routledge.com/Minorities-Free-Speech-and-the-Internet/Fuen->

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATIONS BY RC26 IPSA

Jędrzej Skrzypczak
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on 10 December, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. The UDHR is a landmark document that proclaims the inalienable rights to which every person is entitled as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other views, national or social origin, property, birth or another status.

Research Committee 26 on Human Rights of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) joined in celebrating the Day for the first time in 2021 when the IPSA RC26 Human Rights International Symposium “How Have Years 20-21 Changed The World?” featured Professor Felipe González Morales as Special UN Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants - as a special guest at the event.

The basic idea behind IPSA’s RC26 Human Rights Day webinar series is to bring together representatives from university, as well as those standing for practical approaches to human rights, in a joint online meeting to discuss the most pressing current human rights violations in the world.

This year, the UN proposed that the common theme for celebrating human rights should be ‘Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All’. Therefore, RC26 of IPSA decided to focus in 2022 on the issue of human rights violations during the war in Ukraine. The online meeting was held on the eve of Human Rights Day, i.e., 9 December 2022, in the form of a webinar, organised by RC26 of IPSA, with the support of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.

The news available every day after 24 February 2022 in the European media about the conduct of the war in Ukraine is appalling. War crimes are being observed on a scale not seen since the end of the Second World War. Data and reports from international organisations confirm this gruesome information.

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as of 5 December 2022, the total number of civilian casualties in Ukraine from 24 February 24 to 4 December 2022 is 17,181: 6,702 killed (2,626 men, 1,794 women, 174 girls and 212 boys, as well as 38 children and 1,858 adults whose gender is not yet known) and 10,479 injured (2,273 men, 1,628 women, 217 girls and 308 boys, as well as 250 children and 5,803 adults whose gender is not yet known).

According to the same source, 9,430 casualties (3,978 killed and 5,452 wounded) were reported in the Donetsk and Luhansk districts; in the government-controlled territory: 7,395 victims (3,511 dead and 3,884 injured). On the territory controlled by Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups: 2,035 casualties (467 killed and 1,568 wounded) were revealed. In other regions of Ukraine (the city of Kyiv and the districts of Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Volyn and Zhytomyr) - which were under government control at the time of the casualties: 7,751 casualties (2,724 dead and 5,027 injured) were reported.

Most recorded civilian casualties were caused using long-range explosive weapons, including heavy artillery fire, multiple-launch rocket systems, missiles and air attacks. A caveat is that the actual numbers could be much higher, as receiving information from some places where intense hostilities have occurred has been delayed, and many accounts are still awaiting confirmation. This applies, for example, to Mariupol (Donetsk district), Iziun (Kharkiv district), Lysychansk, Popasna and Severodonetsk (Luhansk district), where there are reports of numerous civilian casualties.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/04/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-10-april-2023>

We should remind here that pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Art. 3: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal safety”. And Art. 5 of the UDHR states: “No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

In turn, one of the critical elements of the crime of genocide definition is the intention to wholly or partially destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group as such. It seems this determination is confirmed by Putin’s numerous declarations denying the existence of Ukrainians as a separate nation. Moreover, the countless facts of mur-

der, torture and rape of civilians, the liquidation of villages and other war crimes may be part of the aggressor state's policy aimed at the genocide of the Ukrainian people. In the Russian media space, myriad voices call for eliminating Ukrainian national identity and accuse many Ukrainians of being 'passive Nazis, accomplices of Nazism'. As one can judge, this is not only the position of the state leadership but also a widespread public sentiment in Russian society. There are, therefore, appeals for the 'denazification' of Ukraine, which would mean 're-education, which should take place through an ideological crackdown (suppression) on Nazi attitudes and heavy censorship: 'not only in the political sphere but also in the cultural and educational sectors'; denying Ukraine the right to be a sovereign state and bearing the name Ukraine; calling for the continuation of 'denazification' for 'a period of at least one generation, which should be born, grow up and mature under conditions of denazification'; a scream for the 'de-Ukrainisation' of the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine; a demand for the 'de-Europeanisation' of Ukraine; a call for the dismantling of Ukraine's 'Bandera leadership' and exposing its followers to 'war trouble'; a requirement for vetting and forced labour for those supporters of the 'Nazi regime' who will not be subject to the death penalty or imprisonment. Naturally, a question may arise as to whether this is the voice of the entire population or merely the result of propaganda and censorship of the independent media in Russia. This is something I will probably not find out at present. It is a pity that it was impossible to invite Russian Fellows of the RC26 IPSA members to the discussion. However, we trust that such a dialogue will begin soon. The first speaker at Human Rights Day 2022 was Professor Carlos R. Fernández Liesa - (Professor of Public International Law and Relations at Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain, who heads the Mario Villarroel Chair in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (since 2011). He is an expert designated by Spain in the Moscow Mechanism of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (2022-2028). He is also the director of the Expert Studies in Prevention and Management of International Crises, performed between the "Francisco de Vitoria" Institute of International and European Studies and the Army War College. Prof. Carlos R. Fernández Liesa presented a case analysis of the conduct of the war in Ukraine from the perspective of international law and the protection of human rights.

The next panellist was Lyudmyla Denisova - Chairman of the Board of the Ukrainian Human Rights Center. Ms Denisova, in a fascinating paper, presented the human rights situation and described the most blatant human rights violations by the troops of the Russian Federation in Ukraine after 24 February 2022.

The floor was then taken by Yevhen Yaroshenko, a member of CrimeaSOS, who outlined the issue of human rights violations following the Russian Federation's occupation of Crimea in 2014 and through 2022.

The next speaker was Olesia Nikolenko, representative of the General Prosecutor's Office

of Ukraine, who attempted to answer the question of whether the crimes committed by Russian troops in such Ukrainian towns as Bucza, Irpina, Hostomel and other Ukrainian cities, as well as the bombing of Mariupol and other towns, and whether the actions of the Russian occupiers can be qualified as genocide. She also reported on the ongoing investigations by the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine into crimes of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

The last but not least speaker was Professor Bartosz Hordecki of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland; he is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at the University, a member of the Executive Board of the Research Committee 50: Politics of Language (International Political Science Association); he specialises in studies on language politics and policies, political philosophy and political rhetoric. His research also concerns the evolution of political and legal cultures and transformations of key concepts and methodological approaches in political and media studies. Professor Hordecki illuminated the problem of misreadings and abuses of linguistic rights in the Russian Federation's geopolitical narrative as one of the sources of the armed conflict and attempts to justify Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

One final reflection is worth sharing. In the run-up to the Symposium, there have been suggestions that it is perhaps too early to analyse and organise academic seminars on human rights violations in Ukraine when there is a real, full-scale war there. However, it seems to us that, firstly, the convention of the RC26 IPSA Human Rights Day series is that these are webinars that always relate to current events in the sphere of human rights protection. Moreover, the idea of inviting guests not only from the world of academia but also practitioners involved in defence of human rights entitled us to address this difficult topic at this time. All the more so because the drama of the war in Ukraine, the scale of war crimes makes us shout loudly to avoid the situation mentioned by the German pastor Martin Niemöller in his poem "First they came ..." from 1946

Martin Niemöller "First they came ..."

First they came for the socialists , and I did not speak out

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out —

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out —

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Ми всі, цілий світ, глибоко вражені вашим героїзмом і мужністю. Я сподіваюся, що ця жахлива війна скоро закінчиться і запанує мир, і повага до прав людини. (We all, the whole world, are deeply impressed by Ukrainian heroism and courage. We hope this terrible war will end soon and peace and respect for human rights will prevail).

PROMOTION

Wayne Sandholtz, John A. McCone Chair in International Relations, Professor of International Relations and Law of the University of Southern California has been named the ISA Human Rights Section Distinguished Scholar,

CALL, FOR PAPERS

PUBLICATIONS

Kothari, Namrata, “*Santhara: A Jain Ritual of Fast Unto Death*,” Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 2022.

Kothari, Namrata, *Indian Eco-theology: Theory and Practice*, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 2023.

Pérez de la Fuente, Oscar, “Rendición de cuentas y COVID. Perspectiva desde España”, *Aletheia. Anuario de derechos humanos y Filosofía del Derecho*, núm 1, 2023, pp. 4-32. Available: [https://www.academia.edu/97563845/RENDICIÓN DE CUENTAS Y COVID 19 PERSPECTIVA DESDE ESPAÑA](https://www.academia.edu/97563845/RENDICIÓN_DE_CUENTAS_Y_COVID_19_PERSPECTIVA_DESDE_ESPAÑA)

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Pérez de la Fuente, Oscar, “Minorities, Free Speech and the Internet – An Overview” in Pérez de la Fuente, Oscar, Tesis, Alexander, Skrzypczak, Jędrzej (eds.), *Minorities, Free Speech and the Internet*, Routledge, London, 2023, pp. 3-15.. ISBN 978-10-3222-835-8

Available: [https://www.academia.edu/98855363/Minorities free speech and the Internet An oveview](https://www.academia.edu/98855363/Minorities_free_speech_and_the_Internet_An_oveview)

Sandholtz, Wayne “The Law and Politics of Transnational Rights Protection: Trusteeship, Effectiveness, De-delegation.” *Governance* (2023) 36(1): 105-124. Co-authored with Alec Stone Sweet.

Sandholtz, Wayne “Why Norms Rarely Die.” *European Journal of International Relations* (2022) 28(4): 934-954. Co-authored with Sarah V. Percy.

Sandholtz, Wayne “Authoritarianism, International Human Rights, and Legal Change.” In David L. Sloss, ed., *Is the International Legal Order Unraveling?* 363-96. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Sandholtz, Wayne “The Failure to Destroy the Authority of the European Court of Human Rights: 2010-2018.” *Journal of the Law and Practice of International Courts and International Tribunals* (2022) 21: 244-277. Co-authored with Alec Stone Sweet and Mads Andenas.

Sandholtz, Wayne, “The Sources of Resilience of International Human Rights Courts: The Case of the Inter-American System.” *Law & Social Inquiry* (2022) 47(1): 95-131. Co-authored with Ezequiel Gonzalez Ocantos.

NEWS

Silmery Santos has attended the course on Public International law at The Hague Academy, January 202.

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