

HUMAN RIGHTS Research Committee 26 IPSA International Political Science Association

Message from the Chair



Newsletter no. 16
October 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am addressing you for the first time as Chair RC26 of IPSA. I was elected to this role at the IPSA World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2023. It is a great honour for me, but also a challenge and a commitment to the entire RC26 of the IPSA community. I am a Faculty of Political Science and Journalism professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, and Head of the Department of Media Systems and Media Law there.

My academic interests focus on several research areas, including, but not limited to, human rights and freedom of expression. In previous terms of RC26, I have served as treasurer and, most recently, as chair-elect. During that time, together with the then RC26 chair Oscar Pérez de la Fuente, we organised many scientific events. The fruits of these meetings and research-related discussions are joint publications. At

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this point, let me express my thanks to Oscar for his commitment to the work of RC26 and for so many of the successes we achieved during his period of RC26 leadership. I hope that together with the whole RC26 of the IPSA Board, we will work well together and organise some exciting scientific gatherings. I want to emphasise that RC26 members, in the current term, represent as many as five continents, which fits perfectly with IPSA's mission as a global organisation. I also very much look forward to working with the Advisory Board members. It is worth noting that during the IPSA World Congress in Buenos Aires, RC26 sponsored several exciting panels. The following sessions are noteworthy: 1. Challenges for Human Rights in the Context of the Global Order Transformation (Chair: Prof. Oscar Pérez de la Fuente), 2. Culture of Peace and Human Rights: Awareness to Restrain the Transboundary Crises (Chair: Prof. Alex Sander Pires); Political Speech, Human Rights and Technology (Chair: Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak); Human Rights, Minorities and Dissent (Chair: Dr Daniel Cetrà); Human Rights, Security and Crisis (Chair: Prof. Arkadiusz Żukowski); Human Rights and International Relations (Chair: Prof. Wojciech Nowak); The Right to Have Rights in the Age of Transboundary Crisis (Chair: Ms Claudia Hilb); Civil, Political and Social Rights (Chair: Prof. Bartosz Hordecki); Business and Human Rights; Human Rights, Conflict and Vulnerability (Chair: Dr Jeffrey Davis); Human Rights, Globalisation and Identities (Chair: Ms Ana

Chair:

Jędrzej Skrzypczak
Adam Mickiewicz University in
Poznan, Poland
jędrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com

Chair-elect:

Alex Sander Xavier Pires
Universidade Autonoma de
Lisboa, Portugal
aspires@gmail.com

Vicechair

Oscar Pérez de la Fuente
Carlos III University of Madrid
Spain
oscar.perez@uc3m.es

Secretary

Radwan Ziadeh
Arab Center – Washington D.C
radwan.ziadeh@gmail.com

Boarad

Anju Gupta
JECRC, University, Jaipur, Ra-
jasthan, India.
anjugupta33@gmail.com

Furqan Ahmed
South Asia Research Institute
for Minorities, SARIM Pakistan
furqan@sarimwatch.org

Cassius Guimaraes Chai
Professor Universidade Federal
do Maranhão (PPGDIR/Law)
cassiuschai@gmail.com

Cordeiro de Azevedo); Human Rights, United Nations and NGOs (Chair: Prof. Bruno Comparato). I thank all the Chairs, discussants and speakers for fascinating papers and scientific discussions on human rights.

I want to assure you that the RC26 in the coming term, as in previous years, intends to be active not only during the world congresses but equally throughout. Therefore, we want to organise or co-organise many events. Thanks to the commitment of current Chair-elect Alex Sander Xavier Pires, we intend to convene, together with the Ratio Legis/UAL Research Centre and the JUSGOV/Univ. of Minho Research Centre, a webinar on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (5 December 2023). In February 2024, we will invite you to a hybrid session during the Conference “Europe of the 21st Century” at Collegium Polonicum, Ślubice, Poland, where we will arrange several panels with other RCs of IPSA. In May, again, thanks to the involvement of Alex Sander Xavier Pires, we will invite you to the Interim Conference 2024 on the IV International Congress on the Culture of Peace and Human Rights: in the scope of the confirmation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year, we want to expand the offer of our short webinars under the title ‘RC 26 Talks, Human Rights in Theory and Practice’. Following the pattern of previous years, we want to celebrate World Human Rights Day (December 2024) with the UN, but also, for the first time, World Press Freedom Day (May 2024) and World Refugee Day (June 2024). The idea behind these meetings is to bring representatives of human rights practice and theory together in a single session for discussion. We also want to have a permanent presence on social media and periodically send out the RC26 IPSA newsletter. Look here for any information about planned events. As you can see, the tasks are many. I hope that, with the support and commitment of the entire RC26 IPSA family, all these goals will be realised. Through them, we will develop mutual scientific and personal relationships and perhaps be able to create fascinating scientific projects together.

Jedrzej Skrzypczak
Chair

BUENOS AIRES 2023 IPSA WOLD CONGRESS

The 2023 IPSA World Congress of Political Science was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and virtually from 15-19 July 2023. The Congress program was prepared by program Co-Chairs Euiyoung Kim (Seoul National University) and Theresa Reidy (University College Cork) on the theme Politics in the Age of Transboundary Crises: Vulnerability and Resilience. The Congress was a great success, with 3,096 registered participants from 102 countries presenting their research in over 80 sessions covering a wide range of topics. In addition, delegates from Latin America represented 43 percent of the total attendance. This is very promising news, in line with IPSA's key mission to support the development of political science worldwide.

The Congress offered a rich and diverse program, with 2,829 accepted papers, 647 panels (568 in person and 79 virtual), 4 plenary sessions, 12 special sessions, and 4 award sessions. The program covered the major subfields of political science, and the Research Committees organized 368 panels on their specific topics.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants, session chairs, and amazing volunteers whose contributions and tireless efforts ensured the success of the 2023 IPSA World Congress. We also extend our appreciation to the Local Organizing Committee in Buenos Aires and its Co-Chairs, Martín D'Alessandro and María Laura Perera Taricco, as well as our host, the Universidad Católica Argentina, and our valued sponsors, partners and exhibitors, whose support was instrumental in making this remarkable event possible.

With the 2023 IPSA World Congress of Political Science now a fond memory, we reflect on the invaluable contributions and productive collaborations that have advanced the field of political science. We are pleased

to remind you that the next IPSA World Congress will be held in Seoul, South Korea, on 12-16 July 2025. This highly anticipated event will bring together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to continue the tradition of intellectual exchange, interdisciplinary exploration, and impactful insights.

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BUENOS AIRES 2023 IPSA WOLD CONGRESS RC26 WORKSHOPS

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

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

**Culture of Peace and Human Rights: Awareness to Restrain the Transbound-
ary 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

BACK TO THE DEFINITION OF “HUMAN RIGHTS”

Radwan Ziadeh

Many definitions have been proposed in order to define this term ‘Human Rights’. Among these definitions is that proposed by René Cassin, one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968. He defined it on the basis that the science of human rights is a special branch of the social sciences whose subject It is the study of the relationships existing between people according to human dignity, while defining the rights and choices necessary to develop the personality of every human being. Therefore, this definition assumes the establishment of a modern science called the science of human rights, so that the criterion of this science is human dignity.

However, in 1973, a group of researchers, led by Mr. Karel Vasak, famous for his research and work in the field of human rights, created about five thousand words used in the field of human rights and entered them into the computer, and obtained the following definition according to this technical method: “Human rights are A science that concerns every person, especially the working person who lives within the framework of a particular state, and who, if he is accused of breaking the law or a victim of a state of war, must benefit from the protection of national and international law, and his rights, especially the right to equality, must be consistent with the necessities of maintaining public order”.

This definition assumes that the human worker is the first addressee according to this perspective, and that the principle of equality stipulated by the law is the one that takes priority.

In 1976, the Frenchman Yves Madieu published his book Human Rights

and Public Liberties and put forward the following definition: The subject of human rights is the study of personal rights that are recognized nationally and internationally and which, under a certain civilization, guarantee a combination of affirming and protecting human dignity on the one hand and maintaining public order on the other hand.

All these definitions share in approaching the issue within the modern perspective of rights and law. They assume the existence of a modern state in which the law prevails. This law must guarantee freedom, dignity, equality, and justice for all citizens. However, Leah Levin tried to see the issue from another angle, and she sees that the concept of human rights has two basic meanings: the first is that a human being (just because he is a human) has fixed and natural rights, and these are (moral rights) stemming from the humanity of every human being and aiming to guarantee his dignity.

As for the second meaning of human rights, it is related to (legal rights) that were established in accordance with law-making processes in both national and international communities. These rights are based on the consent of the governed, that is, the consent of the owners of these rights, and not on a natural order as exists in the first sense.

To this first meaning, the definition of the dictionary of political thought drawn up by a group of specialists leads to the fact that they are the rights that a human being possesses simply because he is a human being. Accordingly, human rights are defined within the state of nature, which is the state of freedom and equality that people are in before an authority arises among them that limits their right to exercise it.

According to the legal aspect, human rights are defined as an outcome acquired through human struggle over a long history, and their graph is rising with the development of the political and social conditions of the person.

But is it possible to talk about abstract natural rights of a person? Then how can these natural rights be defined and determined?

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The term “human rights” is a relatively recent term, while natural rights are a term that was popular in previous centuries, specifically in the Middle Ages in relation to European development. We can say that human rights are the rights guaranteed to the human being, and related to his nature, such as his right to life, equality, and other rights related to the same human nature mentioned in international conventions and declarations.

The insistence on natural right stems from the desire to give a universal formula to these rights and not to link them to the law or the constitution, which makes them subject to the will of the authority or the state. In addition, this definition assumes mentioning the rights that coincided with the term and its emergence as a defined concept. This does not mean at all Denying the existence of human rights before it appeared as a term, as denying this is tantamount to affirming that before drawing the circle, not all rays were equal, in the words of Muhammad Si Nasser.

Digital version: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/182>

CALL FOR BOOK PROJECT ON THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ORG.

ALEX SANDER PIRES
JĘDRZEJ SKRZYPCZAK
OSCAR PEREZ DE LA FUENTE

Purpose: In the year commemoration the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, RC26 (Human Rights) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) proposes a reflection on the challenges of human rights in the face of the need to rebuild the UDHR. **Objective:** to collate texts into chapters on human rights issues in accordance with the UDHR. It is hoped that the authors will present their contributions, critically and analytically, to development and progress in the face of the challenges of recent years.

Structure: collective and thematic book, whose themes complement each other.

Selectin of authors: by invitation.

Text length: between 20 and 25 pages, APA Style.

Language: British English

Timing:

1. Call for proposals: 15 October 2023
2. Presentation of the topic and abstract: 15 November 2023
3. Notification to the organisers of acceptance of the proposal: 15 December 2023
4. Submission of the final text: 15 May 2024
5. Review by the organisers: 15 July 2024
6. Submission to the publisher: 15 July 2024.
7. Expected release date: 15 September 2024.

Participation: colleagues interested in taking part in the project should send an email to Alex Sander Pires (aspire@autonoma.pt), stating the title of the chapter and a

summary of what they intend to write, by 15 November 2023.

We hope that everyone will participate in order to strengthen the working group and contribute to the development of human rights from its various perspectives

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Thank you for your attendance and if you have any questions, please contact Alex SanderPires (aspire@autonoma.pt).

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.org>

CYBERWARFARE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF AI AND THE DARK WEB ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Cássius Guimarães Chai

The emergence of cyber warfare has introduced a new dimension to discussions on human rights, particularly in terms of disinformation campaigns and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) on the Dark Web to shape public opinion.

Using AI in disinformation campaigns poses a significant threat to democratic processes, as it can mislead voters and undermine elections on an unprecedented scale (Swenson, 2023). In this regard, we can cite the Brazilian example during the presidential campaign back in 2018 and the very recent attempt at the legitimate electoral proceedings of 2022. This is particularly concerning because AI-generated disinformation has become increasingly sophisticated, incorporating synthetic media designed to confuse voters, defame candidates, or even incite violence (Swenson, 2023). Nonetheless, this asymmetric narrative warfare can also be perceived in armed conflicts.

The Dark Web, intentionally hidden and inaccessible through standard browsers, has also been implicated in these disinformation campaigns. Its anonymity makes it an ideal platform for spreading false information and coordinating cyberattacks (Bhattacharya, 2021).

Disinformation campaigns not only undermine democratic processes but also erode public trust in these processes. Studies show that misinformation can damage public confidence in democracy. False or exaggerated claims are frequently disseminated by foreign interests to undermine election outcomes (Brookings Institution, 2022).

Using AI and the Dark Web in disinformation campaigns raises significant human rights concerns. For instance, the right to privacy can be infrin-

ged upon by collecting and using personal data in these campaigns (RAND Corporation, 2023). Furthermore, the right to freedom of thought can be compromised when individuals or groups are influenced by information manipulation (UNODC, 2023). Countering these threats requires a multi-faceted approach. This includes efforts to detect and counter deepfakes (RAND Corporation, 2023), development of strategies to counter disinformation (RAND Corporation, 2022), and regulation of the dark web (Bhattacharya, 2021). Usefully, the tactics depleted by contemporary counter-disinformation organizations can be grouped into six high-level strategies: refutation, exposure of inauthenticity, alternative narratives, algorithmic filter manipulation, speech laws, and censorship (Stray, 2019), in the form of gag orders, for example. However, these efforts must also be balanced against the need to uphold human rights, such as freedom of expression (MIT News, 2022).

In conclusion, the intricate issue of cyber warfare's impact on human rights demands a more critical perspective that delves deeper into the subject. While it is crucial to safeguard individuals and societies from the harmful effects of cyberattacks, it is equally important to ensure that measures to combat cyber warfare and cybercrime respect and uphold human rights. A more constructive approach to addressing this issue involves engagement and developing policies that strike a balance not only between security and human rights, but also a more coherent and effective commitment of all the international community with a truly shared equal ethical, and accountable understanding of the meaning of human dignity. Only then can we effectively combat cyber threats while upholding the fundamental values of our societies.

Digital version: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/186>

CALL FOR EVENT
UDHR 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

On December 5, 2023, the Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa (UAL), the Centre for Research and Development in Legal Sciences - RaIo Legis/UAL, and the Research Centre for JusIce and Governance of the University of Minho (JUSGOV/UMinho), with the cooperation of IPSA's RC26 (Human Rights) will hold a hybrid event, based in Lisbon (Portugal), for conferences on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Colleagues interested in giving a talk in English or Portuguese of no more than 15 minutes are invited to apply.

If you are interested, please send an email to Alex Sander Pires (aspires@autonoma.pt)

by 30 October 2023, indicating:

1. The title of the lecture
2. Whether you want to be in Lisbon in person or speak remotely.

Please note that, unfortunately, there is no funding for speakers to travel.

Questions can be sent by e-mail to Alex Sander Pires (aspires@autonoma.pt).

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BALANCING PRIVACY AND SECURITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Anju Gupta

Head Department of Political Science

JECRC University, JAIPUR(India)

The rapid advancement of technology has brought about a paradigm shift in growing world, where technology is advancing with each passing minute; the convergence of technology and human rights has become a prominent and pressing concern. Technology is bringing countless new innovations and advantages for us in terms of communication, transportation, and security, but at the same time it has presented us with significant challenges concerning the protection of individual privacy and human rights violations. The challenge is to strike a balance between privacy and security in the digital era.

Innovation comes with its own set of concerns. Encryption can be used to protect sensitive data, while anonymization techniques can be used to protect personal information. Additionally, technology can be used to monitor and track individuals, which can help to deter crime and ensure public safety.. This is where the dilemma arises when technology is used for data breaches to expose personal information to unauthorized individuals, while surveillance technologies can be used to track people's movements and activities. Additionally, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) can raise concerns about bias and discrimination.

The whole conversation about technology and human rights revolves around the fundamental issue of privacy. We all have the right to privacy, to keep our personal information, communication, and daily activities confidential. But the prominent question is whether Is it possible in this digital era where our online behavior is constantly under scrutiny or surveillance? Technologies like facial recognition, fingerprint detection, and AI-driven surveillance systems are brought forward to enhance the security system; however, this raises concerns about the potential misuse of this data for abuse, financial identity theft, and discrimination.

The challenge is to strike a balance between privacy and security in the digital era requires a multifaceted approach that involves:

Transparency and Accountability: Organizations collecting data must be transparent and accountable. Accountability systems are necessary to guarantee to use data in a responsible and moral manner.

Ethical Technology Development: Developers and engineers must ensure that ethics are their first priority. It is crucial to make sure that surveillance and AI systems are created with privacy protections in mind.

Strong Legal framework: The government should introduce data protection laws globally to maintain the privacy and security of personal data. These gatekeepers will ensure that citizens' data is morally and ethically used by the organization.

Public Awareness: Individuals need to be vigilant of the risks and benefits of using technology. They also need to be educated about how to protect their privacy and security online.

The impact of digital technology on human rights is complex and multifaceted. It is important to be aware of both the positive and negative impacts of digital technology in order to make informed decisions about its use. There is a need to strike a balance between privacy and technology. The digital age is not just to adapt to new technology but also to thrive while upholding the fundamental human rights values that form the basis of our democratic society. The way forward in this dynamic and linked world is obvious: we must choose a road that upholds people's rights, protects their privacy, and assures their security. It's a difficult road, but one that is necessary to uphold the values of democracy, freedom, and dignity that make the nations of the world what they are. The digital era is not necessarily a threat to human rights; rather, it can be a stimulus for peaceful coexistence between technology and mankind.

Digital version: <http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/190>

PROMOTION

CALL, FOR PAPERS

PUBLICATIONS

Valdés-Ugalde, F. (2023). Democracy in Latin America. [online] Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG. Available at: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110773675/html> [Accessed 18 Oct. 2023].

Valdés-Ugalde, F. (2023). Ensayo para después del naufragio | Penguin Libros. [online] PenguinLibros. Available at: <https://www.penguinlibros.com/es/tematicas/317106-ebook-ensayo-para-des-pues-del-naufragio-9786073825788> [Accessed 18 Oct. 2023].

Angelika von Wahl (2021). Lessons on opportunity hoarding and gender binarism: building an alliance of women's, trans and intersex movements. European journal of politics and gender, [online] 4(2), pp.255–271. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1332/251510821x16128070868431>.

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