



22 OF IRELAND'S LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ADOPT A COMMON VISION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRISH FOREIGN POLICY

THE GALWAY PLATFORM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRISH FOREIGN POLICY, FACILITATED BY NUI GALWAY'S IRISH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway has brought together 22 of Ireland's leading human rights groups to adopt a common vision for human rights in Irish Foreign Policy.

The Galway Platform on Human Rights in Irish Foreign Policy sets out the basic human rights standards and practices by which Ireland should be held to account in its dealings with other countries, as well as in its activities at EU and UN level.

The Galway Platform contains 47 specific observations and proposals to government in the context of the current consultation on a review of Irish Foreign Policy being undertaken by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. These are realistic and measured recommendations intended to ensure that Ireland holds true to the human rights commitments that it has freely entered into.

The protection of human rights is integral to Ireland's foreign policy and Ireland now has the opportunity to significantly enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights worldwide as well as at home. The recommendations also emphasize the need for human rights to be mainstreamed across every aspect of foreign policy. For instance, the Galway Platform states that, "it would be unacceptable for the State to

undertake any action that is inconsistent with the human rights standards by which it is held to account."

Professor Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway said, "We are delighted that so many important human rights groups were able to come to Galway and agree on this wide-ranging road map for human rights in Irish Foreign Policy. Although the government is already getting a lot right when it comes to the promotion of human rights internationally, no one would dispute that it can do so much more. The Irish Centre for Human Rights and the other signatories are putting the Galway Platform recommendations to government so that Ireland can be an international champion of

human rights to make us proud."

The Galway Platform has been signed by:

Amnesty International Ireland, Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights at University College Cork, Centre for Disability Law & Policy at National University of Ireland, Galway, Children's Rights Alliance, Community Workers' Co-operative, Department of Applied Social Studies, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Front Line Defenders, Gay & Lesbian Equality Network, Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Galway, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Irish Penal Reform, Irish Refugee Council, Liberia Solidarity Group, National Assembly of the Baha'is of Ireland, National Women's Council of Ireland, Northern Ireland Human Rights Consortium, Pavee Point, Social Justice Ireland, Trocaire, University College Dublin, Human Rights Network and Women's Human Rights Alliance.

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the revamped Bulletin of the IRISH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

We hope that you will find this new version more informative and interesting to read than ever before. These pages capture the remarkable range of activities at the Centre, from academic leadership and achievements to policy-level engagement on the most pressing issues of the day. Colleagues at the Centre are helping shape the human rights discourse both in Ireland and internationally. We welcome your feedback on the Bulletin and I wish you enjoyable reading.

REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA

"(...) It is for that reason that we take such special pride in being honoured by an Irish institution of higher learning. We humbly accept this award, also on behalf of the people of South Africa who would wish me to convey their thanks and appreciation for your support to our struggle at a time when it was not fashionable to demonstrate such support in the manner that you did. (...)"

Nelson Mandela, excerpt from his address during the honorary doctorate ceremony on the 20th of June 2003

On the 5th of December 2013, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela died. In his passing we lost a great upholder of human values and dignity – one of the all-time champions of human rights. Despite the personal hardships he met during his freedom struggle, he never lost his vision for a better and just country for all South Africans. His struggle inspired people all around the world and galvanized the human rights community. Nelson Mandela embodied the audacity of hope, a towering example for the persistency for humanity and a wise conciliator, who understood to bridge the gap between the past and the future.

Nelson Mandela was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws at NUI Galway on the 20th of June 2003. His visit and conferral drew attention to the work the University carries out as a leading international centre of research, teaching and engagement on global human rights issues. On behalf of the Irish Centre for Human Rights I observe our deep sadness at the passing of Nelson Mandela and express our gratitude for his dedication to human rights. His legacy will not diminish and it will continue to inspire generations of human rights defenders everywhere.

- Prof. Michael O'Flaherty



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ICHR visit to Renmore Barracks in Galway



On the 30th of October 2013 staff and postgraduate students from the ICHR LL.M. and Ph.D. programmes visited the Irish Defence Forces First Infantry Battalion at Renmore Barracks in Galway. The visit was organized by Professor Ray Murphy, and allowed staff and students the opportunity to hear presentations from members of the Defence Forces.

Presenters included Lt. Col. Richard Brennan BL on the Legal Nexus in Peace Support Operations, Lt Col. Mark Hearn on the UNMIS mission in Syria, and Comdt. Trevor Ging on the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, among others. While on the visit, the group had the opportunity to learn first hand about the weapons and equipment employed by the Defence Forces and their relevance to international humanitarian law and peace operations.

- Amina Adanan

Expert Meeting on the Right to Health



A Seminar ‘Implementing the right to health’ was held at the Irish Centre for Human Rights on the 24th August. The group of academics and researchers from different countries, working on a multi-country study of law, policy and practice of implementation of the right to health under the leadership of Dr. Brigit Toebes (Lecturer, University of Groningen, Netherlands), met in Galway for the first time. Participants from the fields of legal, political and public health science engaged in discussion on the current issues and challenges of implementation of the right in domestic and

regional settings.

The debate addressed issues of quality of healthcare in Ireland raised by Dr. Adam McAuley (Dublin City University, Lecturer) and legal aspects of implementation of the right to health in Ireland by Des Hogan (Solicitor, Ph.D. Candidate, Trinity College Dublin).

Natalya Pestova (Ph.D. Candidate, Irish Centre for Human Rights) highlighted links between health inequalities for disadvantaged groups in Russia and access to healthcare as a human rights issue.

Dr. Brigit Toebes addressed the privatisation of healthcare services in Netherlands and introduction of a system of regulated competition from the perspective of the right to health.

Sondus Hassounah (research assistant, WHO Collaborating Centre) highlighted challenges of meeting the right to health and public health perspectives, and the effort of the WHO research team under the guidance of Professor Salman Rawaf (Director, WHO Collaborating Centre) to ‘marry’ their indicators and criteria. Their presentation was based on comparative figures from the Arab world.

Katherine Heuss (Ms student, University of Edinburgh) in her presentation on the challenge of the access of huge numbers of refugees to healthcare in Lebanon triggered a discussion on the core obligations of central government versus obligations of the international community to assist the state to fulfil its duties on the right to health. The book ‘Implementing the Right to Health: A Multi-Country Study of Law, Policy and Practice’ is due to be published by TMC Asser Press / Springer in 2014. For more information see <http://www.rug.nl/staff/b.c.a.toebes/abc.pdf>.

- Natalia Pestova

Anne Cadwallader at ICHR



Anne Cadwallader from the Pat Finucane Centre, author of the best-selling book ‘Lethal Allies’, gave a public lecture on Tuesday 4th of March. She was accompanied by Margaret Urwin of ‘Justice for the Forgotten’, which campaigns for victims in the Republic.

- Jia Wang

University scholars at the University Awards Day

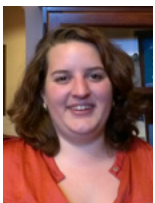


Pictured (left to right):
Brendan O'Connor,
Rachel Sweeney and Aoife Barry

Six BA with Human Rights students were announced as university scholars at the University Awards Day on Saturday 8 February. These are: Aoife Barry, Ciara Moloney, Brendan O'Connor and Rachel Sweeney for their 1st year results and Katie Fallon and Jacqueline Hayes for their 2nd year results.

- Dr. Noelle Higgins

Danica Finger (Germany)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

A colleague of mine told me about the Centre during an internship in Geneva for a human rights NGO. The choice of courses and its content were particularly appealing to me.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I love it. The level of expertise of the professors is unique. I also like the fact that seminars are offered here rather than lectures, which allows for more discussion and interaction. Finally, I appreciate the constant accessibility of the professors.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I have certainly benefitted from the exchange with the lecturers. I was able to deepen my knowledge through essays on specific issues. Moreover, I think that the Centre is well-connected due to the high number of guest speakers and I have thus gained fascinating insight into a multitude of issues.

**Lunchtime Seminar:
Freedom of Speech in Syria**



At the invitation of Front Line Defenders and the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Ms. Yara Bader gave a talk on the “Freedom of Expression in Syria” on the 28th of November 2013. Ms. Bader is Director of the Syrian Centre for Media & Freedom of Expression (SCM). She introduced the legislation and its impact on media and freedom of expression in general in Syria. In conclusion, she emphasized that the current situation in Syria is very delicate.

- Jia Wang



**Lunchtime Seminar:
Strategic litigation and torture**

On 13th December 2013 the Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted a lunchtime seminar on “Strategic litigation and torture” by Mr. Rupert Skilbeck.

Mr. Skilbeck is Litigation Director at the Open Society Justice Initiative in New York. He is a barrister at the Bar of England and Wales, having practiced in criminal law,

human rights law and international criminal law.

In his work for the Open Society he oversees strategic human rights litigation in cases involving discrimination, freedom of expression, torture, deaths in custody, fair trial rights, corruption, national security, and international criminal law, before tribunals including the African, European and Inter-American regional human rights systems, as well as the UN Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture. Mr. Skilbeck spoke about the evolution of international law on torture and ill-treatment, and about efforts to combat abuses through effective public interest litigation.

Following the seminar Mr. Skilbeck addressed the Refugee and Immigration Practitioners’ Group on recent litigation on torture and ill-treatment in a number of different international courts. Peter Fitzmaurice spoke to the group on the new Subsidiary Protection statutory instrument.

- Peter Fitzmaurice

**Lunchtime event in Dublin:
Diplomacy with Iran - Are Human Rights Being Bartered for Other Gains?**

On the 11th of December 2014 Prof. Michael O’Flaherty led a lunchtime event entitled “Diplomacy with Iran: Are Human Rights Being Bartered for Other Gains?” hosted by the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies of Trinity College and the Irish Baha’i Community.

After a brief introduction by Brendan McNamara on behalf of the Baha’i Community, who distinguished between Islam as faith and Islam as a political system, Dr. Roja Fazaeli outlined some of the most important issues surrounding human rights in the Middle East, with particular reference to Iran. She pointed out to the various human rights violations, especially the worrying numbers of ongoing executions in Iran. Dr. Fazaeli is a Lecturer in Islamic Civilisation(s) at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies. Professor O’Flaherty was the main speaker at the event.

While expressing concern regarding serious human rights violations in Iran, he indicated his optimism at some positive developments and signs of openness, such as the participation of Iran in the Universal Periodic Review sessions and commitments made at the UN General Assembly. As human rights is one of the ‘pillars’ on which the United Nations rests, Professor O’Flaherty explained the importance of having a human rights framework in all diplomatic engagement, regardless of the topics addressed. In this context he mentioned the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, who put forward very valuable analysis and recommendations for Iran.



Prof. O’Flaherty, in his concluding remarks emphasized the need to strengthen diplomatic channels and support Iranian civil society. He also spoke to the importance of having human rights at the heart of Irish foreign Policy, in which context he discussed the initiative, led by the Irish Centre for Human Rights, of the Galway Platform on Human Rights in Irish Foreign Policy.

Nora Kennelly (USA)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I wanted to seek an international perspective and further my development as a human rights advocate.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I love the atmosphere and educational environment!

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I appreciate the diversity of students here at the Centre. I also like the personal interaction with the lecturers. It is very unique.

Lunchtime seminar: Winding down of ICTY



Dr. Shane Darcy gave a talk about the legacy of the international criminal tribunals on the 28th of March 2014. Dr. Darcy spoke about the impact of the tribunals on international criminal law and he pointed out that judges can be regarded as judicial activists, aiming to shape and trigger a vibrant debate on international criminal law. However, Dr. Darcy also highlighted the fragmentation of the law due to controversial judgements, such as in the Perisic, Markac and Gotovina cases.

- Tamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan

Victory at first Irish International Humanitarian Law Competition ‘Corn Adomnáin’ in Dublin

ICHR teams came first and second in the inaugural ‘Corn Adomnáin’, an international humanitarian law competition organised by the Irish Red Cross which took place Saturday, 22nd of March in the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin (<http://goo.gl/vVOK05>). The competition consisted of teams undertaking a series of international humanitarian law based scenarios before benches of judges with the two highest scoring teams going forward to participate in an international humanitarian law based moot competition in the final. The final was judged by Mr. Justice McKechnie, Mr. Justice Hogan and Judge McNamara. Both of the ICHR’s teams progressed to the final.



on this picture from left to right: Dr. Noelle Higgins, Dianne Keur, Nora Kennelly, Andrea Wescott Lacoursiere, Sinead Coakley, Rick O'Connor and Luke Hamilton.

Chief Justice Denham presented Rick, Luke and Andrea with the trophy. Congratulations to both teams.

- Dr. Noelle Higgins

Adam Sweetman (Ireland)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

When I began to looking at Masters courses a former lecturer informed me that the ICHR offers the best LL.M. programs in the field of human rights in Europe. After some research it seemed like he was right and I applied.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I think it is excellent. Having all of our lectures and being able to study in the Centre is a massive advantage. The Centre is a very positive learning environment where the students can engage with a wide variety of issues and exchange their ideas and experiences.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I have gained many benefits from studying here. The main benefit is the great variety of modules and lectures that are delivered by world-class academics with high levels of experience in their respective fields.

Public Event: Equal Access to Marriage in Ireland?



On the 6th of February 2014 the Irish Centre for Human Rights and Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN) hosted a public event, Equal Access to Marriage. One of key speakers was John Fisher, founding Executive Director of Egale Canada (Canada’s national LGBT equality organisation) and co-founder of ARC International, a NGO aimed at strengthening cross-regional networks and enhancing international standards for the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons. The other key speaker was Tiernan Brady, a Director with GLEN, who has worked extensively across national and regional government. Both speakers gave insights from the domestic as well international levels, as how the recognition of

same-sex marriage is perceived and what hurdles need to be overcome to achieve equality. The vibrant discussion among students, general audience and speakers served as an early contribution to the important debate that should precede the proposed 2015 Irish constitutional referendum on the issue.

- Tamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan

Lunchtime seminar: Recent trends in the Human Rights Council



On Tuesday the 11th of February the Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted a guest lecture with Adrien-Claude Zoller. The political scientist and management consultant established the Representation of Pax Christi International (1981), the International Service for Human Rights (1984) and the World Organisation Against Torture (1985). Since 2003 he is the president of the NGO Geneva for Human Rights, a training organization whose principal goal is to close the gap between the UN Human Rights system and active individuals by offering them courses and expert seminars. In the seminar Zoller spoke about the development and recent trends in regards to the UN Human Rights Council. He elaborated on how the body was strengthened by how senior diplomats such as ambassadors speak on behalf of their countries and how civil society participation has improved over the years. Moreover, he explained mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review and spoke about various country situations.

- Danica Finger

Lunchtime seminar: From Tanistry to Ubuntu. The relevance of customary law for the protection of human rights and self-determination in Ireland today



On the 19th of March 2014 Dr. Brendan Tobin gave a talk on the relevance of customary law for the protection of human rights and self-determination in contemporary Ireland. Dr. Tobin is a barrister by training and he has over 20 years experience working in the commercial, non-governmental and research sectors on issues of environmental law, intellectual property and Indigenous rights. A graduate of the Irish Centre Human Rights, he was awarded a Ph.D. in 2012 by NUIG. He is currently research fellow at Griffith Law School (Brisbane). Dr. Tobin underscored the relevance of local customary law on the international plane. By doing so, he furthered that local customs should be taken into due consideration in the formulation of law. He concluded that the local authority shall decide what the applicable rules should be.

- Jia Wang/Tamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan

**Book launch:
Minority Rights in the Middle East**



Photo: BBC roundtable from programme *Rediscovering the Ottoman Empire and the authors of the book*. From left to right in the photo: Executive Producer Mike Smith; BBC Head of Religion and Ethics, Commissioning Editor Professor Aaqil Ahmed; Prof. Joshua Castellino and Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh.

Dr. Cavanaugh has co-authored a book with Prof. Joshua Castellino entitled "Minority Rights in the Middle East", a book challenging some of the existing narratives on minorities in the Middle East. The book launch was in November 2013 in London.



The book provides an overview of the historical social formation of minority groups within the region and examines how the status of these groups, as well as their relationship with a range of legal frameworks, have shifted and changed over time. The book identifies who exactly can be classed as a minority group, analysing in detail the different religious and ethnic minorities across the region. The book also pays special attention to the plight of minorities who are spread between various states, often as the result of conflict. It assesses the applicable domestic legislative instruments within the three countries investigated as case studies: Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and highlights key domestic remedies that could serve as models for ensuring greater social cohesion and greater inclusion of minorities in the political life of these countries.

- *Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan*

Workshop: "International Human Rights Law and the Protection of Human Rights at the International Level" in Prishtina

On the 20th of November 2013 Dr. Karen da Costa led the workshop entitled 'International Human Rights Law and the Protection of Human Rights at the International Level', organised by the Institute for Social Studies and Humanities, Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Prishtina. The event was part of the Tempus HEART project (Higher Education Action for Human Rights Teaching) and was the first of a series of academic initiatives aiming to facilitate technical collaboration across

partner universities. The idea is to organise workshops and guest lectures by EU partner universities in different Western Balkan universities participants in the project (located in Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania).



The workshop gathered about twenty undergraduate and postgraduate students from different areas (law, political science, anthropology, philosophy, among others), as well as academic staff from Prishtina University and from Roehampton University (London). The workshop was well received among participants and similar events will follow.

- *Dr. Karen da Costa*

Short Term Scientific Mission in Poland



From 16th-23rd of January 2014 Dr. Karen da Costa conducted a Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, as part of the Disaster Bioethics COST Action. The STSM facilitated collaboration with Dr. Paulina Pospieszna, Assistant Professor at the host institution in the finalization of the joint paper entitled "Reducing the risk of natural disasters: is there a role for human rights to play?" presented at the Disaster Justice workshop

jointly organized by COST Action Disaster Bioethics and University of Copenhagen's excellence program for interdisciplinary research project "Changing Disasters", in Copenhagen on 27th-28th of February 2014.

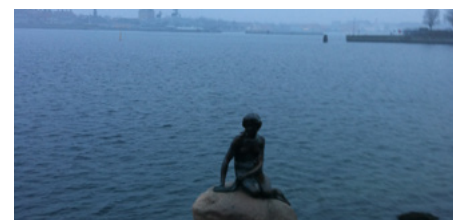
During her mission Dr. da Costa also had the opportunity to give a lecture on a related topic, namely "Reducing the risk of natural disasters while taking into account human rights: what can we learn from Brazil and Madagascar". The lecture was advertised at the university website and took place on January 21st, 2014. It was open for students, faculty members and outside visitors, gathering an audience of 60 participants. According to Dr. da Costa the STSM was a most positive experience that genuinely fostered the strengthening of international research collaboration and the widening of academic network, both at the individual and institutional levels.

- *Dr. Karen da Costa*

International workshop in Copenhagen

Dr. Karen da Costa presented a joint paper with Dr. Paulina Pospieszna (Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan/Poland) at the Disaster Justice workshop held at the University of Copenhagen (27th-28th of February 2014), in its excellence program for interdisciplinary research project "Changing Disasters". The workshop was co-organized by the EU-COST Disaster Bioethics - a EU funded research network aiming to foster multidisciplinary collaboration on developing clear standards to be used in the context of especially natural disasters.

- *Dr. Karen da Costa*



Dianne Keur (The Netherlands)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I was looking for programmes, which didn't require a specific law background. The Peace Operations programme is quite unique in Europe and the professors connected to the Centre have great expertise in the fields of humanitarian law, peace operations and refugee protection. This was a crucial factor for my decision to study at the Centre, which has a great reputation.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I enjoy the classes, which take place in small groups and lead to intensive and vibrant discussions. The professors are very knowledgeable, always accessible, and very enthusiastic. I appreciate the possibility of engaging with the material in more depth, e.g. through the IHL moot court competition, which is challenging but very interesting at the same time.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I like the different backgrounds of the students here at the Centre and the broad network the professors have (for example Prof. Murphy and his ties to Concern Worldwide). The studies narrow down the broad law background and enable us to be semi-specialists.

Prof. Murphy on Sabbatical



Pictured are Prof. Murphy with Sheik Sulaiman Hathaleem, a Bedouin elder on the hills of south Hebron, Palestine.

Prof. Ray Murphy is currently on sabbatical and he is a visiting scholar with Al-Haq until the end of May 2014.

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah, West Bank. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable.

The organisation conducts research, prepares reports, studies and interventions on breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional and international bodies. Al-Haq also cooperates with Palestinian civil society organisations and governmental institutions in order to ensure that international human rights standards are reflected in Palestinian law and policies.

- Prof. Ray Murphy

Dr. Shane Darcy speaks at International Legal Conference in Tehran



From left to right: Mr. Gary Lewis, Dr. Mohammad Ashouri, Dr. Davood Hermidas Bavand, Dr. Mehdi Momeni and Dr. Shane Darcy

On the occasion of World Day of Social Justice, 20th February 2014, the “International Conference on Evolution of Legal Concepts in Light of Evolution of International Criminal Courts and Tribunals“ was held at the

Iranian Centre for International Conferences in Tehran. Dr. Shane Darcy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights attended and gave a paper on the judicial contribution to the development of international humanitarian law. A range of papers from practitioners, judges and scholars explored the important role played by international tribunals in the evolution of contemporary international criminal law.

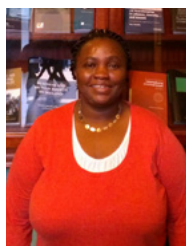
- Dr. Shane Darcy

Dr. Noelle Higgins appointed as National Rapporteur

Dr. Noelle Higgins was appointed as National Rapporteur on the topic of “Damages for Infringements of Human Rights” to International Academy of Comparative Law, XIXth Congress, which will take place in Vienna Austria, July 2014.

- Dr. Noelle Higgins

Mary Kessi (Tanzania)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I chose the Centre due the Irish Aid fellowship. I was also attracted by the specialization and the high level of information.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

It is really good: the interaction in the seminars and the skilled lecturers with their very profound experience from field work has amazed me.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I am sure that the programme has enhanced my intellectual capacities, enabled to criticize and scrutinize human rights issues more.

Project: Faith in Democracy?



In 2012, Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh and Dr. Edel Hughes (University of East London) were awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Foundation (Small Research Grants 2012-2013) for a project entitled ‘Faith in Democracy?’ Militant Democracy, Legal Pluralism and the Turkish State.

These photos were taken during the first phase of field work in Istanbul, Turkey which coincided with the Gezi Park/Taksim protests in May 2013.



Faith in Politics Conference

Dr. Noelle Higgins was the invited chairperson on a panel on religious diversity at “Faith in Politics Conference” organised and hosted by Churchill College, Cambridge 12-13 November 2013.

- Dr. Noelle Higgins

Galway Traveller Movement’s Programme launched

Dr. Noelle Higgins launched Galway Traveller Movement’s Programme of Events ‘Whiden Toie’ to celebrate their 20th anniversary on March 10th 2014.

- Dr. Noelle Higgins

Prof. O’Flaherty in Tripoli for discussions on compliance by the Libya NHRI with the Paris Principles

Prof. O’Flaherty addressed a seminar on “Strengthening the Independence of Libya’s Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights” organized by the United Nations Development Programme in Libya on the 24th of March 2014.



The purpose of the seminar was to discuss how to bring Libya’s Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles. The conference brought together national and other international human rights experts, regional states, the International Coordinating Committee, the parliament and Libyan State Ministries.

- Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan

**Prof. O’Flaherty at HRC side event
“Civil society space: Emerging threats
and actions to restore freedoms”**



Following a panel of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of civil society space, a side event was held on the 12th of March 2014 in Geneva entitled “Civil society space: Emerging threats and actions to restore freedoms”, organized by ICNL, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law, ARTICLE 19, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the World Movement for Democracy, and the Governments of Ireland, Sweden, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia. Prof. O’Flaherty chaired this event.

- *Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan*

**HRC side-event in Geneva: The
Right to Privacy in the Digital Age**

Professor O’Flaherty spoke on the 13th of March 2014 at the side-event of the UN Human Rights Council on the topic, “Privacy in the Digital Age”, organised by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), at the United Nations, Palais des Nations, Geneva. The event coincided with the Universal Periodic Review of the US by the UN Human Rights Committee.

- *Cian Moran*

**International Symposium on the
Domesticization and Practice of
International Human Rights
Instruments in Taiwan, ROC**

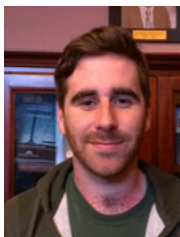
A symposium was convened by the Judicial Academy of Taiwan on the 26th -27th of November 2013 with experts from various countries to share their experiences in implementing the ICCPR and ICESCR in their countries. The comparative and empirical researches were expected to be references for Taiwan to implement the International Bill of Human Rights.



Prof. O’Flaherty was invited to speak on ‘The Implementation of UN Conventions and the Interpretation of Human Rights Treaties’.

- *Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan*

Rick O’Connor(Ireland)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I was familiar with Prof. Ray Murphy’s work and was impressed. Also I heard a lot about the Centre.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

It is amazing here. The lecturers are always approachable. Their level of expertise and their experience is precious.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

Although I don’t have a law background, the Centre allowed me to see how international law works. I do understand much better how the law is applied in reality. At the end of the day, the Centre is not only strictly academic, but it also enables you to see the real world application of the law.

**Prof. Murphy Acting Chair of the
Irish Human Rights Commission**



Pictured from left to right: Des Hogan, IHRC Acting CEO, Éamonn Mac Aodha, Ambassador to Belgium, Elena Ippoliti, OHCHR, Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Prof. Ray Murphy, IHRC Acting Chair.

Professor Murphy was Acting Chair of the Irish Human Rights Commission from November-December 2013.

- *Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan*

**Prof. O’Flaherty speaks at
roundtable on mass surveillance**



The Center for Democracy & Technology and the American University Washington

College of Law Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law held a daylong convening on January 29, 2014, to discuss how to protect privacy and free expression rights in an era of massive trans-border surveillance. The discussion drew 45 participants from the United States, Europe, and Latin America and included academics, advocates, former jurists, and human rights experts. The roundtable had several immediate outputs, including identification of key opportunities for civil society engagement for the short, medium, and long term.

The group discovered key points of agreement between participants and areas to explore further. We also uncovered gaps in thought leadership that would benefit from new research and analysis. To keep the momentum of the conversation going, we have created a participant mailing list and we are continuing to build the shared collection of resources.

- *Emily Barabas,
Center for Democracy & Technology*

**Prof. O’Flaherty at
Annual Dinner of the
Irish Council on Civil Liberties**



Prof. Michael O’Flaherty, was invited as the special guest speaker at the Annual Dinner of the Irish Council on Civil Liberties. The topic of his talk was: Putting the ‘Law’ Back Into Human Rights. The dinner provides an annual opportunity for networking and peer-to-peer exchange among lawyers and also to discuss human rights law and practice with an invited speaker.

- *Irish Council on Civil Liberties /
Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan*

**UN Seminar on effective
measures and best practices
to protect peaceful protest**

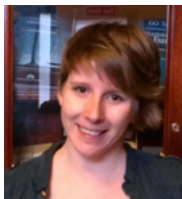
Following the Human Rights Council HRC Resolution 22/10 of 21 March 2103 (A/HRC/RES/22/10), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a seminar on effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests. This seminar took place on 2nd of December 2013 in Geneva. Experts were invited to share their views and experiences with participants. Prof. O’Flaherty was among these experts and participated in the UN seminar. He wrote the background paper for the seminar with research support of Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan and Mesenbet Assefa Tadedg, both fellows at the ICHR.



The seminar brought together States, relevant United Nations entities, civil societies, and academic and research bodies.

- *OHCHR*

Andrea Wescott-Lacoursiere (Canada)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

The Peace Operations programme has caught my attention. It is an amazing programme, bringing together aspects of IHL and conflict. The multidisciplinary approach of the Centre and the diversity of other courses, programmes and the ICC Summer School have also convinced to start my LL.M. studies here. Finally, academics such as Prof. Ray Murphy with their experience and reputation continue to attract students from all over the world.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I enjoy the studies here. It has definitely fulfilled my expectations, as the teachers here are great. I like the way how the Centre manages different opinions and approaches. Also, it is very progressive and spearheads the human rights advocacy.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I think this programme will enable me to work for international organizations and NGOs. The level of know-how, experience of the lecturers, the trips and finally the IHL competition have helped me accelerate my intellectual capacities.

NEW POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS



Dr. Zoi Aliozi

The Centre is pleased to welcome a new post-doctoral researcher. Dr. Zoi Aliozi will work on the EU funded project led by Dr. Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko entitled 'International Protection of Human Rights as a Constitutional Issue: Promises, Problems, and Prospects.'

The project critically examines the relationship between human rights and international constitutionalism through an interdisciplinary lens combining law with philosophy and political theory.

Dr. Zoi Aliozi completed her basic education in Greek public schools, and moved to England where she studied for a LLB in Law (2003). Parallel to law school, she was trained in counseling psychology by the Central School for Counseling Training (CSCT) in London, UK.

Zoi studied civil law in Democritus University of Thrace in Greece, and holds a Master on Human Rights and Democratization from the European Inter-University Center (EIUC) in Venice, Italy (2006). She has also spent a year in the faculty of international law of the University of Seville, Spain (2007).

Dr. Aliozi received her Ph.D. in political philosophy from LUISS University in Rome, Italy (2013), and has been a visiting scholar in the Philosophy Department of Georgetown University in Washington D.C., USA (2012).

In 2012, the University of Madrid awarded Zoi the 1st prize for young philosophy researchers with an international background. She has been a film critic in the Venice Film Festival, where she also acted as a jury member for the Best Human Rights Film Award 2007. She organizes international film and art human rights related festivals.



Dr. Róisín Burke

The ICHR is glad to welcome a new Government of Ireland Post-doctoral Research Fellow. Dr. Róisín Burke is currently conducting an Irish Research Council funded project entitled, 'Rule of Law reform initiatives: A vehicle for advancing gender justice, women's civil law and property rights, and rural women's access to justice in post-conflict states?'. This project explores the extent to which rule of law reform programmes have been or could be used to advance gender justice post-conflict.

Dr. Burke completed a doctorate at the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law at the University of Melbourne Law School in 2012, entitled "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Military Contingents: Moving beyond the Current Status Quo and Responsibility under International Law". A monograph based on the Ph.D. will be published with Martinus Nijhoff. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Limerick and a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

Dr. Burke has previously worked as a Teaching Fellow at Melbourne Law School, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Citizenship Development and Human Rights at Deakin University, and as a legal intern at the United Nations Office of Legal Counsel, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

She has published in the areas of international criminal law, peacekeeping, and state and international organisation responsibility. Her work appears in the Journal of Conflict and Security Law, the Journal of International Peacekeeping and in Thematic Prosecution of International Sex Crimes (M. Bergsmo ed., Beijing: Torkel Apshal Academic EPublisher, 2012).

OPINIO JURIS

This new column features short articles by ICHR colleagues. The full text can be accessed online.

The UN General Assembly and the Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System

- Michael O'Flaherty -

On 11 February, the 3rd Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on "strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system". Although the matter still needs to be considered by those who control the purse strings in the General Assembly's 5th Committee, the resolution's adoption can be said to mark a defining moment in a treaty body reform process that began in 2009. Remarkably, it does so with some success, paving the way for the delivery of enhanced resources to this long-neglected part of the UN human rights system and re-affirming the independence of treaty bodies and their membership.

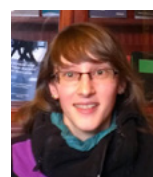


The path that led to the adoption of the resolution was also noteworthy, in that it was highly inclusive, with different stakeholders included to an unprecedented degree. To appreciate the significance of the resolution and the process leading to it, some historical context is necessary. (...)

If you are interested in reading the remainder please follow this link:

<http://goo.gl/hZsSKr>

Elli Kath (Germany)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

It is an interesting programme, covering a variety of research fields and has an excellent reputation.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I love it.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

The programme has enabled my ability to reflect more. Furthermore I think and analyse more critically.

Ciara Smyth wins prestigious human rights prize

Dr. Ciara Smyth who lectures in the School of Law and at the ICHR was presented with a prestigious Max van der Stoep Human Rights Award in Tilburg recently. Nominated by the Law Faculty Board of Leiden University where she graduated with a doctorate, she received the award for her Ph.D. thesis on 'The Common European Asylum System and the Rights of the Child: An Exploration of Meaning and Compliance'.

The Max van der Stoep Human Rights Award was established in 1995 as an incentive for students and Ph.D. students who have written a thesis or any other academic work in the field of human rights.

The award was an initiative of the Law Faculty and Studium Generale of Tilburg University and was joined by the School of Human Rights Research as of 1998. Since 2002, the Human Rights Award is named after Max van der Stoep, the former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, in honour of his work in that field.

Major EU funding for evictions project led by Padraic Kenna

Dr. Padraic Kenna of the School of Law will lead a major €1m EU-funded research project on evictions across the 28 European Union Member States. The research will investigate the national legal frameworks and extent of evictions across Europe.

The research will identify effective early intervention and preventative measures and create a profile of evicted households, risk factors and risk groups. Patterns of evictions across all EU Member States will be analysed in the context of diverse structural factors including the economic crisis, welfare systems and legal practices and protections.

The project, which will take two years, was awarded following a competitive tendering process by the European Commission. It will examine evictions from mortgaged, rental and other properties, with a focus on the right to housing within the context of national and EU law all areas in which Dr. Kenna is a leading European expert.

NUI Galway will lead a consortium of university and housing research agencies in Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Spain. Dr. Kenna, as Research Director/Principal Investigator will lead the network of national experts on housing law and policy across all EU Member States. The researchers will collate national and local data, as well as legal materials for the project's report to the European Commission.

Ombudsman delivers first public lecture at NUI Galway Law School event

The new Ombudsman & Information Commissioner, Mr. Peter Tyndall, delivered his first public lecture since taking up office at the end of 2013 at an event organised by

the School of Law in NUI Galway on 19th February to mark the tenth anniversary of the LL.M in Public Law. The event was chaired by Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness, Adjunct Professor in the School of Law.

In his lecture Mr. Tyndall said: "Public confidence in oversight institutions is enhanced when they are clearly independent of the bodies in their jurisdiction."

While not referring specifically to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) controversy, Mr. Tyndall said "recent events" had "highlighted the importance of Ombudsman institutions being accountable to the Oireachtas (parliament) and not to the administration".

The full lecture by the Ombudsman can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/x76IGF>



(from left to right Dr. Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway, Marie McGonagle, Director of the LL.M in Public Law, Mr. Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman & Information Commissioner, Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness and Prof. Donncha O'Connell, Head of the School of Law)

Four new academic staff with strong human rights interests join School of Law

Four new people have joined the academic staff of the School of Law in the past year and each of them has an active interest in human rights.

Dr. Eilionóir Flynn, who has been appointed to a Senior Lectureship, is also the Deputy Director of the Centre for Disability Law & Policy. At a national level she is actively engaged in the process of legal capacity reform, and co-ordinates a working group of over 15 civil society organisations in the fields of disability, mental health and older people on this issue. Together with other colleagues from the CDLP, and in partnership with Seasamh and Inclusion Ireland, she is also supporting the emergence of a National Platform of Self Advocates with Intellectual Disability in Ireland.

Internationally, she has supported the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, in particular, the working group which prepared a draft General Comment on Article 12 (legal capacity). She is also actively engaged with the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing which aims to strengthen the international human rights of older persons. She has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals. Eilionóir's current

research interests include legal capacity, advocacy, access to justice, and the intersectionality of disability, gender and ageing.

Dr. Eoin Daly joined the School of Law from the Sutherland School of Law, UCD in February. His research approaches constitutional law issues from a political-theory perspective. In particular, his interests lie in the areas of religion and secularism, Church-State relations, political liberalism, theories of justice, as well as republican and liberal political philosophy. He has published a number of papers on French *laïcité* (secularism) in legal and political journals including the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, the European Journal of Political Theory, French Politics and the International Journal of Law in Context. He has also made a contribution in the field of political theory, particularly in relation to the political philosophy of John Rawls and the constitutional thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Daly also has published on Rawls and Rousseau in journals such as Jurisprudence and Law, Culture and the Humanities. His latest paper, entitled "Republican deliberation and symbolic violence in Rousseau and Bourdieu", is forthcoming in Philosophy and Social Criticism in 2014.

Brian Tobin is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he has recently submitted for examination his Ph.D. thesis examining the socio-legal assimilation of same-sex family structures in Ireland. The final year of his doctoral research was funded by an Arthur Cox Studentship.

Brian previously lectured at NUI Galway in 2007/2008 and, since then, he has lectured at Trinity College Dublin, DIT, Independent Colleges and Kingston University London. Brian's primary research interests are in the areas of Family and Child Law, Gender, Sexuality and Law, Human Rights and Equity and Trust Law. He has published articles on these areas in leading peer-reviewed journals such as the Irish Jurist, the International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family, and the Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law. He has been the Equity correspondent for Thomson Round Hall's Annual Review of Irish Law since 2007.

Dr. John Danaher joins the School of Law in July of this year from the University of Keele. His research interests lie predominantly in the intersections between philosophy and law, with a particular focus on the ethics and regulation of emerging technologies. To date, he has published a variety of articles, including pieces on the death penalty, criminal responsibility, scientific evidence and blind expertise, the use of brain-based lie detection, and the ethics of human enhancement. John writes a blog called Philosophical Disquisitions:

philosophicaldisquisitions.blogspot.ie

*Congratulations to
successful Ph.D. students:*

Brian Farrell



From left to right: Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh (supervisor), Brian Farrell, Professor John Jackson, external examiner (Professor of Criminal Law and Procedure, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nottingham/UK) and Professor William Schabas (internal examiner)

Aisling O'Sullivan



From left to right: Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh (supervisor), Aisling O'Sullivan and Dr. Ekaterina (internal examiner), external examiner Professor Martti Koskeniemi (not pictured, Professor of International Law at The Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, University of Helsinki/Finland)

Aoife Duffy



From left to right: Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh (supervisor), Aoife Duffy, Professor Nasser Hussain, external examiner (Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, Amherst College, USA). Professor Michael O'Flaherty was the internal examiner, he is not pictured.

Luke Hamilton (Ireland)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I picked the Centre based on several key criteria: its international recognition as a centre of excellence in the field of human rights research and advocacy, the high standard of teaching and first hand experience that the teaching staff bring to the lectures. Finally, as I am not coming from a strictly legal background, I was encouraged by the Centre's emphasis on promoting human rights as a multidisciplinary field.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

It has been an amazing experience so far. I can't believe how much I've learned in such a short space of time and often wish the course were longer than one year, so I could participate in some of the other modules on offer here!

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

I find the support of the staff to be first-rate. So far, the lecturers have been more than willing to answer queries, solve any issues that might arise in or outside of seminars and ensure that every lecture is interesting and engaging, bringing a wealth of experience to the learning experience.

Natalya Pestova



From left to right: Professor Ray Murphy, Dr. Shane Darcy (internal examiner), Professor Vinodh Jaichand (supervisor), Professor Stephen McCaffrey, external examiner (University of the Pacific)

Lars Waldorf



From left to right: Professor William Schabas (supervisor), Lars Waldorf, Professor Mark Drumbl, external examiner (Washington & Lee University) and Dr. Shane Darcy (internal examiner)

Sinead Coakley (Ireland/UK)



Why did you choose the ICHR?

I heard of the Centre during a postgraduate open day in the Netherlands, and decided to look more at the courses available and liked the variety of modules.

How do you like studying at the ICHR?

I really like the different styles of teaching as well as frequent guest lectures from distinguished professionals.

What do you consider as most beneficial so far in the LL.M. programme?

The standard of teaching and the international outlook.

Dr. Daniel Aguirre



I completed my Ph.D. at the Irish Centre for Human Rights in 2007, having been part of the first cohort of LL.M. students to graduate in 2001. My Ph.D. was published as “The Human Right to Development in a Globalized World” (Ashgate 2008). Since then I have worked for a number of NGOs in South East Asia including Earth Rights International as their teaching coordinator on their Myanmar Program and now as an International Legal Advisor for the International Commission of Jurists in Myanmar.

I have also taught international law at Universities in Ottawa Canada, Changchun China, Bangkok Thailand, and London. Doing a Ph.D. at the Irish Centre for Human Rights opened many doors for me and gave me a solid background in human rights practice that is highly valued by NGOs and academic institutions. Most important, however, was the opportunity to meet great people, both staff and students, who have become life long friends that I meet regularly around the world.

Dr. Eadaoin O’Brien



At the time I obtained my Ph.D. from the ICHR, I was employed as a graduate fellow with the Human Rights Consortium at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Undoubtedly my time spent as a doctoral student, and working as a doctoral fellow at the ICHR helped me to secure this fellowship. As I continued my fellowship at the HRC I started the process of applying for academic positions; the advice I received from colleagues at the HRC and staff of the ICHR, including from my doctoral supervisor Prof. Ray Murphy, was invaluable, and within 6 months of the award of my Ph.D. I was appointed as a lecturer in human rights at the University of Essex Human Rights Centre.

I consider the Ph.D. at the Centre as integral to my career development. The Centre fostered a supportive and collegial environment that not only enabled me to flourish academically but informed my current approach to working with students and colleagues.

I completed both my LL.M. and Ph.D. in human rights law at the Centre and the most valuable experience and what I treasure most about my time spent at the ICHR, apart from the formal qualifications, are the wonderful friends I have made, who also share a passion for human rights and for me form a human rights support network across the globe.

Dr. Wibke Timmermann



I began my Ph.D. at NUI Galway while I was working as a Legal Officer at the Prosecutor’s Office at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. I later moved to Perth, Australia, where the fact that I was in the process of completing my Ph.D. assisted me in obtaining a position as lawyer for Legal Aid Western Australia. I finished my Ph.D. in December 2011. I still work for Legal Aid, but am currently on maternity leave - my daughter Leva was born in July last year. My book “Incitement in International Law”, based on my Ph.D., will be published by Routledge in August. I have had a great experience studying at the Irish Centre for Human Rights - the flexibility of the program allowed me to work full time while writing my Ph.D., and staff have been very friendly and approachable. The times when I travelled to Galway for the yearly Ph.D. seminar or my viva, everyone made me feel so welcome that despite living overseas, I very much felt part of the little community at the Centre.

Dr. Hitomi Takemura



I am now an associate professor of international law at Aichi Prefectural University, Japan. After graduating from the ICHR I was an assistant professor of international law at Kyushu International University, Japan. Without the Ph.D. from the Centre it would have been hard for me to get the current position.

The atmosphere of the years 2005-2007 I spent at the Centre was great. I was surrounded by brilliant LL.M. students and Ph.D. students from all over the world. The annual Ph.D. seminar, monthly Ph.D. meetings and daily lunch meetings

were also very interesting. The Centre encouraged students to present their papers and provided us with travel costs. That was very generous.

Dr. Julia Kozma, LL.M. (Galway)



I came to the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway in 2003 not to do a Ph.D., but to participate in the Centre’s Masters programme. I had already obtained a Ph.D. from my home university

in Austria before, but felt that I would like to “re-broaden” my horizon after focusing on my thesis topic for a considerable time. And this is exactly what the Irish Centre did for me: it broadened my horizon, in many respects. Of course, I learned a lot from an academic point of view. But more importantly, the classes and discussions with people at the Centre who had so much practical experience in the field of human rights – both lecturers and fellow students – was vital for my future understanding of human rights, humanitarian law, international relations and other topics.

Soon after having left Galway I started working for the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture’s mandate. I participated in numerous fact-finding missions around the world and was involved in torture related investigations and reporting. Additionally, I started publishing on human rights topics and was asked to teach or give speeches on various occasions.

In 2009 the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers elected me Austrian member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT); this year I was re-elected for another four-year term. It was and still is great to be able to apply in practice what I have learned in Galway; and I will always be grateful for the opportunity of getting to know several terrific experts in the field of human rights there, some of which are still friends a decade later.

Dr. Yvonne McDermott



I have been working as a lecturer in law in Bangor University, Wales since 2011. I gained invaluable experience at the Centre and, more importantly, made friends for life there!

The 2014 International Criminal Court Summer School

The annual International Criminal Court summer school at the Irish Centre for Human Rights is the premiere summer school specializing on the International Criminal Court. The summer school allows participants the opportunity to attend a series of intensive lectures over five days and will take place from June 16 to June 20, 2014. The lectures are given by leading academics on the subject and by legal professionals working at the International Criminal Court.



The summer school is attended by legal professionals, academics, postgraduate students and NGOs. Participants are provided with a detailed working knowledge of the establishment of the Court, its structures and operations, and the applicable law. Participants are also given the opportunity to network with the speakers throughout the week. Lectures also speak to related issues in international criminal law, including: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the crime of aggression, universal jurisdiction, immunities, the role of victims and Africa and the ICC.

For more information and to register please visit our website at <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=351> or email iccsommerschool@gmail.com.

This year's confirmed list of speakers is:

Professor William Schabas

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, NUI Galway and School of Law, Middlesex University

Mr. Fabricio Guariglia

Appeals Division of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court

Dr. Mohamed M. El Zeidy

Pre-Trial Chamber II at the International Criminal Court

Dr. Rod Rastan

Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court

Professor Ray Murphy

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, NUI Galway

Dr. Noelle Higgins

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, NUI Galway

Dr. Shane Darcy

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, NUI Galway

Dr. Nadia Bernaz

School of Law, Middlesex University

Mr. John McManus

Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section, Canadian Department of Justice

Professor Megan A. Fairlie

Florida International University

Dr. Mohamed Badar

Northumbria University, United Kingdom

Professor Donald M. Ferencz

Middlesex University School of Law, London

Dr. Kwadwo Appiagyei Atua

University of Ghana and University of Lincoln

Publications and conference presentations

- **Shane Darcy**: 'International Judicial Bodies and the Development of International Humanitarian Law', International Conference on the Evolution of Legal Concepts in Light of Evolution of International Criminal Courts/Tribunals, Tehran, 20th of February 2014.

- **Shane Darcy**: 'Legal Means for Challenging Settlements', Palestine and International Law, First International Conference of the Palestinian Bar Association, Jericho, 21st – 22nd of January 2014

- **Karen Da Costa with Dr. Paulina Pospieszna and Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan/Poland**: 'Finding the missing thread: the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in tackling climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction' (will be published prior to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, Japan)

- **Noelle Higgins**: 'International Law and Wars of National Liberation', in Oxford Bibliographies in International Relations. David Armstrong (ed.), New York: Oxford University Press, 2014

- **Noelle Higgins**: 'The Responsibility of the Netherlands for the Actions of Dutchbat: An Analysis of Nuhanović and Mustafić', International Criminal Law Review 14 (2014) pp. 641-659

- **Michael O'Flaherty**: 'Saving and Strengthening the United Nations Human rights Treaty Body System', pp. 137-142, in: Vienna +20 Advancing The Protection of Human Rights, Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Menschenrechte, Julia Kozma, Anne Müller-Funk, Manfred Nowak (eds.)

- **Michael O'Flaherty**: Conference Contribution, Session 1: 'The Implementation of UN Conventions and the Interpretation of Human Rights Treaties', in: International Symposium on the Domesticization and Practice of International Human Rights Instruments, Taiwan, 26th - 27th of November 2013

- **Michael O'Flaherty**: 'Foreword', The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Cases, Materials and Commentary, Sarah Joseph and Melissa Castan (eds.), Oxford University Press, 3rd Edition, Oxford, 2013

- **Michael O'Flaherty**: 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity', in: International Human Rights Law, Daniel Moeckli, Sangeetha Shaah, Sandesh Sivakumaran (eds.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2nd edition, Oxford, 2014

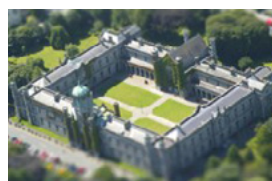
- **Michael O'Flaherty and Daria Davitti**: 'International Human Rights Law in Field Operations', pp. 169-182, in: Nigel Rodley and Scott Sheeran (eds), Routledge Handbook of International Human Rights Law, Routledge, 2013

- **Michael O'Flaherty** (with research assistance by Mesenbet Assefa Tadege and Thamil Venthana Ananthavinayagan): 'Effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests: a background paper', OHCHR Seminar on effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, 2nd of December 2013, to be found at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/AssemblyAssociation/Pages/Seminar2December2013.aspx>

- **Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko**: 'Revisiting the Reservations Dialogue: negotiating Diversity while Preserving Universality Through Human Rights Law', in: Machiko Kanetake and André Nollkaemper (eds.), The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels: Contestations and Deference. Oxford, Hart.

- **Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko**: 'The "Reservations Dialogue" as a Constitution-Making Process', pp. 381-403, in: International Community Law Review, Volume 15, Issue 3

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ICHR UPDATES

The Irish Centre for Human Rights now has a social media presence. Please like us on Facebook at:

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And follow us on Twitter for all updates on the Centre's activities at:

<https://twitter.com/IrishCentreHR>