



The Meet the Professors Day on the 380th Anniversary of Utrecht University

SIM to host annual Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference



On 2-3 September 2016, the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights is honoured to host the 2016 Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference. The conference is entitled "50 Years of the Two UN Human Rights Covenants: Legacies and Prospects" and will be attended by an impressive range of human rights scholars from around the world. There will be nearly 100 speakers, a number of them SIM researchers, presenting on six major themes: (i) the indivisibility and interactions of norms and regimes; (ii) citizenship, migrants and refugees; (iii) non-state actors and human rights; (iv) the EU and human rights; (v) the global economy and human rights; and (vi) new avenues in human rights research. The United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, will close the conference by giving the 2016 SIM Peter Baehr lecture.



Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

SIM Newsletter

Summer 2016

In this issue

SHELTER CITY

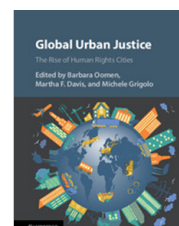
The SIM provides support to the Shelter City Initiative, a programme of the city of Utrecht to host human rights defenders

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CURRENT EVENTS

• SIM Summer School

11-22 July 2016, Achter Sint Pieter 200, Utrecht

(i) International Human Rights Law: An Introduction

This one-week introduction course between 11 and 15 July focuses on the major features of international human rights law. It begins by examining the philosophical and political bases of human rights and then explores human rights documents and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights at the international and regional levels. Human rights-based approaches for analyzing conflict and attempts to promote peace and justice will also be explored. Through lectures, interactive working groups, expert panels and excursion(s), participants will gain an understanding of the various elements - and their interplay - involved in this field. More information on dates and fees can be found [here](#).

(ii) International Law from a Gender Perspective

This interactive one-week course between 18 and 22 July will look at law from a gender perspective, encompassing cis, gay, trans and intersex perspectives. The focus is primarily on human rights but will cut across other areas of international law, such as refugee law. Through lectures, excursions, and group assignments, topical issues will be explored and analysed, linking theory and practice. More information can be found [here](#).

SIM NEWS

Appointment of Stacey Links to E-IR

Stacey Links, PhD researcher at SIM, has recently been appointed as the International Relations Theory Editor at E-IR. E-IR is the largest open-access website for scholars of international politics and deals with a range of historical, contemporary and theoretical questions pertaining to international relations. For more info click [here](#).



E-INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

Dossier on Corporate Social Responsibility

A dossier on corporate social responsibility has been started on the UU-website (in Dutch), which contains contributions by UU researchers from all faculties and departments whose research concerns topics related to the issue of corporate social responsibility. The full contents of the dossier can be found [here](#). Antoine Buyse, Professor and Director of SIM, contributed to the dossier by providing a reaction to the recent publication of Liesbeth Enneking's report with the Dutch Ministries of Security and Justice and of Foreign Affairs (see p. _ of this Newsletter). Antoine's contribution (in Dutch) can be found [here](#).

Anja Mihr's New Position

After a short period back at SIM to finalize the big research project on [Transitional Justice and Democratic Institution-Building](#), Anja Mihr has moved to Berlin to start as Program Director of the Center on Governance through Human Rights at the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform. She also runs an Online Master Program in [Governance and Human Rights](#). SIM wishes Anja the very best in her new position and thanks her for all her work here in Utrecht over the years!



Shelter City Initiative

Over the past months, the SIM has been happy to provide support for Utrecht's latest Shelter City guest. The Shelter City Initiative offers human rights defenders a possibility for rest and respite by letting them escape temporarily from a threatening situation. The program's objective is to offer the human rights defenders a shelter for three months, during which she/he will rest, build up capacity and extend his/her network. SIM is able to help human rights defenders participating in this scheme by sharing human rights resources and giving them access to relevant human rights education.

SIM NEWS

Remembrance and Liberation Day

Each year the Netherlands commemorates its war victims on the fourth of May. This year, Utrecht University organized a symposium preceding the formal commemoration ceremony. The symposium centered on Free Speech. Amongst the speakers were a refugee from Turkey, a sociologist, and a literature scholar. Professor Antoine Buyse addressed the issue from a human rights



Prof. Dr. Antoine Buyse

perspective, going into misconceptions about the freedom of expression. The next day, 5 May, on which the liberation of the Netherlands at the end of World War II is annually celebrated, a documentary was aired on local Utrecht television on current conceptions of freedom, in which Antoine was also interviewed. The documentary, in Dutch, is called 'Dichtbij Vrijheid' (Close to Freedom) can be watched [here](#).

Meet the Professor

This year Utrecht University celebrates its 380th anniversary. Part of the festivities was a project entitled 'Meet the Professor': professors visited all of Utrecht city's primary schools to tell children about their research and more generally about what it is like to be a professor. Antoine Buyse visited a group of ten-year olds at the local Pieterskerkhof School and discussed with them about the freedom of expression. The children came up with lots of original questions and were full of curiosity.



Goodbyes: Stefanie Lemke, Sandra Rios Oyola and Lorena Sosa

In the Spring of 2016, SIM said goodbye to Dr. Stefanie Lemke, Dr. Sandra Rios Oyola (postdocs) and Dr. Lorena Sosa (Assistant Professor). At SIM, Stefanie focused on the relationship between judicial independence and human rights in Latin America, together with the Prins Claus Chair in Development and Equity. Sandra researched the impact of transitional justice on democratic institution-building in the context of the TJDI project, and Lorena analyzed concepts of human rights, democracy and rule of law in EU policies within the FRAME project. They will be sorely missed!



From left to right: Dr. Lorena Sosa, Dr. Stefanie Lemke and Dr. Sandra Rios Oyola

Hello: Alice Welland

In April Alice Welland joined SIM to work as a junior lecturer in international law and human rights. Alice previously worked for more than two years as the assistant coordinator for the European network of legal experts in gender equality, and then as an assistant-coordinator of gender equality law for the European equality law network. Welcome, Alice!



Alice Welland

SIM PARTICIPATES

Workshop on Vulnerability and Human Rights Law

On 29 February 2016, Alexandra Timmer, Assistant Professor at SIM, organized an informal expert workshop on the concept of vulnerability in human rights law. Researchers from Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland participated. The concept of vulnerability has gained momentum in human rights law and literature. During the workshop, the participants discussed how vulnerability relates to human rights, and how using this concept in human rights-related research brings both potential and challenges.

NY Fordham Conference

'Human Rights in an Age of Ambiguity'

Stacey Links (PhD candidate SIM) presented at the fifth joint international conference on human rights from 13-15 June 2016 at Fordham University, New York City. The conference was held immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System. The conference engages global political, economic, normative, structural and ideational changes that are impacting and raising deep questions about international human rights, norms, institutions and power structures. Stacey presented on 'The reconfiguration of global spaces: asymmetries, contestations and implications of the international human rights discourse in an "age" of ambiguity – the case of Sino-African relations' in the panel on Human Rights in Africa.



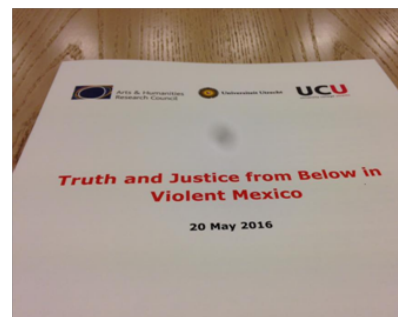
Lecture for Human Rights Master Students at Ghent University

On 25 April, Dr. Brianne McGonigle-Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, gave a guest lecture at Ghent University entitled 'The International Criminal Court and Africa: More than Meets the Eye' for students in the Master program 'Human Rights in Developing Countries'.



'Truth and Justice from Below in Violent Mexico' – seminar hosted by UU and UCU

On 20 May, Diana Contreras-Garduno (PhD candidate SIM) participated in the seminar 'Truth and Justice from Below in Violent Mexico'. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) funded the seminar, which was hosted by Utrecht University Department of Anthropology and University College Utrecht. The one-day workshop examined the various ways in which civil and community groups in Mexico seek to cope with the consequences of escalating levels of violence. The seminar brought together a unique group of academic researchers, specialists, and representatives of social organizations in Mexico and elsewhere that are active in the fields of impunity, justice and truth finding. The objective of the seminar was to strengthen the ties between analysts and activists, and to jointly develop a perspective that puts at the centre people's experiences and solutions. Diana commented on the presentations of the panel 'Searching Victims, Truth and Justice'.



57th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association

Dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, participated in the 57th annual convention of the International Studies Association (ISA) held from 16-19 March in Atlanta, Georgia. She presented on the impact of competing justice conceptions within the transitional justice field.



SIM PARTICIPATES

New Frontiers in Global Environmental Constitutionalism: Implementing Human and Environmental Rights in Global Context, Johannesburg

Daphina Misiedjan, PhD candidate at Utrecht University, spoke at the symposium 'New Frontiers in Global Environmental Constitutionalism: Implementing Human and Environmental Rights in Global Context', held at North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa from 12-14 April 2016. Widener University Delaware Law School (USA) and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, Professor John Knox, co-hosted the symposium, which was sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). Daphina presented her paper on the ten building blocks for sustainable access to water for domestic purposes of vulnerable groups. Presentations given at this symposium can be found [here](#). It is expected that the papers will be published by UNEP at the end of this year.



Left: Daphina Misiedjan and (right) with UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment John Knox.

Conference on Human Dignity and Human Rights

On 29 May dr. Brianne McGonigle, Associate Professor at SIM, Leyh spoke at a three-day Conference organized by the Ethics Institute of Utrecht University entitled 'The Future of Human Rights: History, Norms & Institutions' which formed part of the NWO Project 'Human Dignity as the Foundation of Human Rights'. Brianne spoke on the use of human dignity by regulatory bodies in the context of gender stereotyping and the media.

Armed groups and the ICC

On the 23rd of March, Katharine Fortin gave a lecture at the International Criminal Court on the accountability of armed groups under international human rights law. She was invited by the Prosecutor of the ICC. Presenting to staff from all organs of the Court, Katharine's lecture looked particularly at the case law on crimes against humanity and its relevance to determining when armed groups are bound by human rights law.

Lecture for the Ius Commune Research School

On 29 April, Dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, gave a seminar on 'American Common Law, Comparative Methodologies' for the Ius Commune Research School. The Ius Commune Research School is a cooperation between the law schools of Maastricht University, Leuven University, Utrecht University, and the University of Amsterdam.



Expert meeting on national constitutions and human rights

On 26 May, SIM-fellow Professor Janneke Gerards gave a presentation at an expert meeting on the contribution of national constitutions to the protection of human rights, entitled 'The Impossibility of Constitutional Change in the Netherlands, and the ECHR as a Substitute Constitution'. The expert meeting was held at the University of Saint-Louis, Brussels, Belgium.

Expert roundtable at the Hague Institute for Global Justice

On 8 June Aurélie Roche-Mair, organized a roundtable on 'Trials in Absentia in International Criminal Justice'. The event was hosted at the Hague Institute for Global Justice and welcomed judges and practitioners from the international criminal courts operating in The Hague. Dr. Brianne McGonigle-Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, presented on the approach of the Human Rights Committee and the European Court of Human Rights.



SIM PARTICIPATES

Human Rights Dialogue

The Human Rights Dialogue is an initiative by Cordaid, the Dutch Committee of Jurists, The Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) and Dietz, Dröge en Van Loo. It is held twice a year and provides a platform for the discussion of human rights related themes for Dutch politicians.

As part of the human rights dialogue, in May 2016 a group of Dutch local politicians from various political party and cultural backgrounds visited London and York to study human rights policy practices. The group met over 40 experts in over 25 meetings on concrete solutions to matters such as ethnic profiling, racism and football, human rights education, antisemitism, accessibility for disabled people, mental health, children's rights and the use of taser guns, and islamophobia. City councilors returned to the Netherlands with many ideas for policy initiatives to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Washington College of Law Summer Program in The Hague

On 9 June 2016, Dr. Brianne McGonigle-Leyh, Associate Professor at SIM, spoke at a career and networking panel for American University's Washington College of Law Summer Program in The Hague, hosted at the T.M.A. Asser Institute.

Public debate on equality

On 19 April, SIM-fellow Professor Janneke Gerards participated in a public debate meeting in Amsterdam on 'The Commons and the Principle of Equality', organised by the New Amsterdam Academy (KNAW and Pakhuis de Zwijger).

UCIS Lecture with Lieutenant General Leo Beulen

On 11 May 2016, Katharine Fortin chaired a UCIS lecture given by Lieutenant General Leo Beulen on international military cooperation and military operations. On 24 March 2016, Lieutenant General Beulen was appointed as the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army.



ERA Conference

On 6 June, SIM-fellow Professor Janneke Gerards participated in a conference held by the Europäische Rechtsakademie (ERA) in Trier, Germany, entitled 'Current reflections on EU Anti-Discrimination Law'. Janneke gave a lecture on the recent developments in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning non-discrimination law.



ILA British Branch Spring Conference

On 8-9 April 2016, Katharine Fortin took part in the International Law Association British Branch Spring Conference on Non State Actors and International Law at Lancaster University. Katharine presented a paper on the relevance of Article 9 of the Articles on State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts to armed groups.

Liesbeth Enneking inaugural lecture at the University of Leuven

SIM-fellow Dr. Liesbeth Enneking holds the yearly rotating chair of the Journal of Private Law from 2015 to 2016. On 13 May 2016 she gave the inaugural lecture at the University of Leuven entitled 'People, Planet, ... Procedure? – About the care obligations of companies under international corporate social responsibility'. The lecture is available in Dutch [here](#).



Dr. Liesbeth Enneking.

Article 1 lecture

On 1 April SIM-fellow Professor Janneke Gerards held the 'Article 1' lecture, in which she addressed the question of whether Article 1 of the Dutch Constitution (which prohibits discrimination on a number of grounds) should be amended. Janneke argued that a simple prohibition of discrimination (without mentioning any specific grounds) would be desirable. The lecture will be published in the Netherlands Journal for Human Rights (*Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Mensenrechten* / *NJCM Bulletin*) in August/September.

SIM PARTICIPATES

ECHR and EU Training for Judges

Both in March and May, Antoine Buyse gave full-day trainings on the European Convention on Human Rights to judges and judges in training, in Rotterdam and Utrecht respectively. In addition, on 23 May, together with Mirjam de Mol, SIM-fellow Professor Janneke Gerards provided a training course to trainee judges on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The trainings were organized by the Dutch Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary.



FRAME project: General Assembly and presentation at EU human rights working party

The past few months have been busy in the [FRAME project](#). Besides submitting the final reports, Dr. Lorena Sosa and Dr. Alexandra Timmer had the honor to present findings from the project to the Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) of the EU External Action Service. In the context of the Netherlands' Presidency of the EU, the COHOM held an informal meeting in Amsterdam in April 2016. Lorena and Alexandra gave a presentation entitled 'Human rights, democracy and the rule of law: engaging with contested conceptualizations'. Together with Jenny Goldschmidt, they also attended the annual FRAME General Assembly in Leuven and Brussels on 6 and 7 June. During the General Assembly, FRAME-partners from 19 universities and research institutions convened to discuss their ongoing research and exchange views on EU human rights with key policy makers.

SIM PUBLICATIONS

Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

The newest issues of the NQHR feature the following articles:

NQHR, 2016-1



- S. Langlaude Doné, 'Religious Organisations, International Autonomy and Other Religious Rights before the European Court of Human Rights and the OSCE'
- L.R. Glas, 'The Functioning of the Pilot-Judgment Procedure of the European Court of Human Rights in Practice'
- S. Galani, 'Somali Piracy and the Human Rights of Seafarers'
- A. Dyer, 'Freedom of Expression and the Advocacy of Violence: Which Test Should the European Court of Human Rights Adopt?'

NQHR, 2016-2

- Column: T. van Boven, '50 Years of the UN Human Rights Covenants'
- F. Crépeau and I. Atak, 'Global Migration Governance: Avoiding Commitments on Human Rights, Yet Tracing a Course for Cooperation'
- A. Tamo, 'New Thinking on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights: Towards a Multi-Stakeholder Approach'
- J. Viljanen and H. Heiskanen, 'The European Court of Human Rights: A Guardian of Minimum Standards in the Context of Immigration'

Bas de Gaay Fortman – *Moreel Erfgoed* (Amsterdam: Prometheus, 2016)

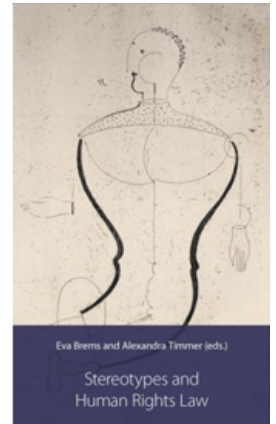
Professor Emeritus Bas de Gaay Fortman recently published in Dutch his book *Moreel Erfgoed* ('Moral Heritage'). This work connects the principles underlying human rights to the moral heritage of the Netherlands by focusing on (among others) Dutch political history and international human rights.



SIM PUBLICATIONS

Eva Brems & Alexandra Timmer (eds.) – *Stereotypes and Human Rights Law* (Intersentia, 2016)

Stereotypes are beliefs about groups of people. Some examples taken from human rights case law are the notions that 'Roma are thieves', 'women are responsible for childcare', and 'people with a mental disability are incapable of forming political opinions'. Increasingly, human rights monitoring bodies – including the European and Inter-American human rights courts, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – voice concerns about stereotyping and warn States not to enforce harmful stereotypes. It appears that human rights bodies are starting to realize what social psychologists discovered a long time ago: that stereotypes underlie inequality and discrimination. However, despite their relevance and their legal momentum, stereotypes have so far received little attention from human rights law scholars. This volume is the first one to broadly analyze stereotypes as a human rights issue. The scope of the book includes different stereotyping-grounds – such as race, gender, and disability. Moreover, this book examines stereotyping approaches across a broad range of supranational human rights monitoring bodies, including the United Nations human rights treaty system as well as the regional systems that are most developed when it comes to addressing stereotypes: the Council of Europe and the Inter-American System.



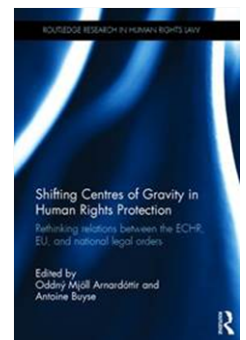
Barbara Oomen et al. (eds.) – *Global Urban Justice: The Rise of Human Rights Cities* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)

On 29 June, The Hague Institute and the University College Roosevelt hosted the book launch of *Global Urban Justice: The Rise of Human Rights Cities*, edited by SIM-fellow Professor Barbara Oomen together with Martha F. Davis of Northeastern University, Boston, and Michele Grigolo of Nottingham Trent University, UK. The book brings together academics and practitioners at the forefront of human rights cities and the "right to the city" movement to critically discuss their history and also the potential that human rights cities hold for global urban justice.



Antoine Buyse and Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir (eds.) – *Shifting Centres of Gravity in Human Rights Protection. Rethinking Relations between the ECHR, EU, and National Legal Orders* (Routledge 2016)

The protection of human rights in Europe is currently at a crossroads. There are competing processes which push and pull the centre of gravity of this protection between the ECHR system in Strasbourg, the EU system in Luxemburg and Brussels, and the national protection of human rights. This book brings together researchers from the fields of international human rights law, EU law and constitutional law to reflect on the tug-of-war over the positioning of the centre of gravity of human rights protection in Europe.



European Equality Law Network reports

Alexandra Timmer, Assistant Professor at SIM, is acting-coordinator of gender equality law at the EELN. Together with Linda Senden, Professor of EU law at Utrecht University, she has written a report for the EELN entitled '[A comparative analysis of gender equality law in Europe – 2015](#)'. In addition, two thematic reports related to gender equality have now been published: '[Legal implications of EU accession to the Istanbul Convention](#)', written by Kevät Nousiainen and Christine Chinkin; and '[Measures to address the challenges of work-life balance in the EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway](#)', written by Aileen McColgan. All reports are available on the [EELN website](#).

SIM PUBLICATIONS

Publication of a report on the duties of care of Dutch companies

At the request of the Dutch ministries of Security & Justice and of Foreign Affairs, SIM-fellow Dr. Liesbeth Enneking has together with a group of researchers of the Utrecht Centre for Accountability and Liability Law (UCALL) published a report on the duties of care of Dutch business enterprises with respect to international corporate social responsibility, entitled *Zorgplichten van Nederlandse ondernemingen inzake internationaal maatschappelijk verantwoord ondernemen*. This report explores the ways in which and to what extent a duty of care of Dutch corporations with regard to international corporate social responsibility has been laid down or applied in Dutch legislation and/or case law, and to what extent the present state of affairs relates to both the UN Guiding Principles and the state of affairs in neighbouring countries. The full-text version of the report (in Dutch) is available on the website of the Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) [here](#). An English translation of the report's executive summary will become available on the same website later this month.

