



Pandemic Times

Antoine Buyse, SIM Director

The image above will be all too familiar to many of us, working from home in these pandemic times, only seeing colleagues and loved ones in two dimensions on screens rather than in real. That is just one of the many changes that COVID-19 has brought upon us. Much more severe are the many effects on human rights enjoyment: confinement, shrinking spaces for people to voice their concerns, exacerbated inequality, and all of this hitting those already in tenuous circumstances even more harshly. As the new global protests have shown, there is also a lot of new energy and awakening. For the human rights community, this entails critically monitoring all the restrictions, speaking out, and rethinking how rights can be protected even during these times of crisis and beyond.

Here at SIM, many colleagues have been doing so by blogging about anti-pandemic measures and their human rights effects and by putting as much information on human rights - all the more crucial now - online, as you will see in this Newsletter. I would especially like to highlight the work of our current and former students, who have voiced their opinions on the pandemic, supported our work through internships, and - as featured in a new part of our Newsletter - continue to do so throughout their later professional work.

To all our academic friends and reader of this Newsletter: take care, from all of us at SIM!

SIM Peter Baehr Lecture 2020

Speaker: Nani Jansen Reventlow

We kindly invite you to attend the SIM Peter Baehr lecture 2020 on the occasion of our 39th anniversary. This year, we are honoured that the lecture will be delivered by Nani Jansen Reventlow, Director of the Digital Freedom Fund. She will be speaking on Ensuring human rights for all in the digital age. The Peter Baehr lecture will take place on Friday 16 October 2020, at 17h15. Please note: due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not yet clear whether the lecture will take place on campus, if circumstances permit, or otherwise online as a livestream. This will be communicated closer to the event, but you can already register now by sending an email to: secretariaat@ERSBR@uu.nl, with reference to 'SIM Peter Baehr Lecture 2020'.



Ensuring human rights for all in the digital age. The Peter Baehr lecture will take place on Friday 16 October 2020, at 17h15. Please note: due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not yet clear whether the lecture will take place on campus, if circumstances permit, or otherwise online as a livestream. This will be communicated closer to the event, but you can already register now by sending an email to: secretariaat@ERSBR@uu.nl, with reference to 'SIM Peter Baehr Lecture 2020'.



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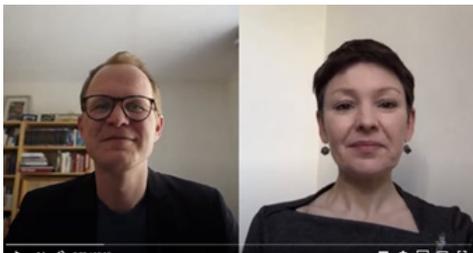


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Need to know more about **human rights**, especially now? In these pandemic times, online access to research and teaching has become more crucial than ever. Please find SIM's selection of its **freely accessible** educational materials online here. Below, find **SIM contributions** on the relevance of human rights in the current crisis.

The 'Corona-App' and Fundamental Rights



In [this video](#) conversation, two of our Utrecht colleagues, SIM fellow **Janneke Gerards** and Stefan Kulk explain the implications for fundamental rights of so-called 'Corona Apps', now being developed in many countries to track the virus.

SIM blogs: COVID-19 and Human Rights

Kushtrim Istrefi, [Supervision of Derogations in the Wake of COVID-19: A Litmus Test for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe](#) (EJIL:Talk!, April 2020)

Kushtrim Istrefi and Isabel Humburg, [To Notify or Not to Notify: Derogations from Human Rights Treaties](#) (Opinio Juris, April 2020)

Felisa Tibbitts, [Coronavirus Curriculum](#) (Worlds of Education: April 2020)

Salvatore Nicolosi, [Non-refoulement during a Health Emergency](#) (EJIL:Talk!, May 2020)

Vassilis P Tzevelekos and **Kushtrim Istrefi**, [A Way for the ECtHR to Foster the Domestic Oversight of Emergency Measures Against the Pandemic: Procedural Rationality's Special Mission](#) (ECHR Blog, May 2020)

Katharine Fortin, [Human rights derogations/restrictions in the time of COVID-19: what is their relevance in situations where an armed group or de facto entity controls territory?](#) (Armed Groups and International Law, May 2020)

MOOC Human Rights for Open Societies



Join more than 20,000 enthusiastic learners who participated in the previous editions of our successful MOOC 'Human Rights for Open Societies - An introduction into the European Convention on Human Rights'. This course is for everyone who is interested in the protection of human rights and the idea of open societies. The course will run again from 7 September onwards. Join us and [sign up here](#) already now. Want to see a preview of what the course is about? Watch [this video](#). And did you know that all the video lectures from our MOOC are also freely available on youtube? Watch for example the introductory lecture on the idea of open societies [here](#).

Stream the Professor for Children



Due to the pandemic, Utrecht University took its annual project 'Meet the Professor' in which professors visit the city's primary schools, online under a new flag: 'Stream the Professor'. On 8 April, hundreds of children tuned in to the youtube livestream in which SIM director **Antoine Buyse** answered questions of children about human rights and about what it means to be a professor. He also told them at their age he wanted to become a cartoon artist. The video (in Dutch) can be watched [here](#).

Interview Amnesty International

Laura Henderson was interviewed, along with professor Marc de Wilde, on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the [interview](#), Laura calls on citizens to critically assess the crisis measures taken by their governments. She also emphasizes the opportunity such crisis moments give for positive change.



Verfassungsblog



Antoine Buyse co-authored a piece together with professor Roel de Lange of Erasmus University Rotterdam on [Verfassungsblog](#) in its topical [series](#) Covid-19 and states of emergency. The commentary, entitled '[The Netherlands: Of Rollercoasters and Elephants](#)', analyses the Dutch anti-pandemic measures from a perspective of the rule of law and human rights, arguing that the Netherlands adopted 'a quasi-legal, quasi-rhetorical approach to shape their intelligent lockdown and try to tame the pandemic beast, with questionable constitutional practices as a result'.

Winning Student Opinion Pieces

Laura Henderson organises a student competition in her class on Philosophy & Ethics of International Law. Students write an opinion piece in which they philosophically and/or ethically reflect on a current issue in international law. The aim is to do so in a way that is accessible to a broad audience. The three winning pieces each, in their own way, succeeded in communicating their well-reasoned opinion on highly relevant topics in international law. They engage philosophically with the COVID-19 virus, climate engineering, and psychological torture in ways that help their audience better understand the interests and values at stake in the law.

The three winners are:

- Christina Fernandez: Quarantining the Diamond Princess: An Unethical Solution to COVID-19?
- Kevin Keane: Geo-engineering Demands an Ethical International Governance Structure
- Louis Lambrechts: Psychological Torture and the Advent of Cyber-Technologies

Read the three winning pieces [here](#).

Guest Lecture Global Health



Julie Fraser has given three guest lectures to medical students studying Global Health. She has also participated in the brand new course in the medicine faculty entitled COVID & Society. In these guest lectures Julie has introduced students to the human right to health, its complex scope and protection around the world. She also lead a mock trial debating the pros and cons of a COVID tracking app focusing on the right to health and right to privacy.

Human Rights and Higher Education



Felisa Tibbitts carried out a webinar on 21 May, sponsored by UNESCO and the International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) located in Venezuela. The event began with a brief review of the applicable international human rights laws and showed that although the state's provision of education at the tertiary level is a progressive right, actors have an immediate obligation of non-discrimination.

Felisa Tibbitts then explored how the "Four As" established by the first Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Katarina Tomaševski might be applied to higher education. To illustrate: Available-Education is free; Accessible- The education system should be non-discriminatory and include the most marginalized; Acceptable- The content and experience of education should be relevant, non-discriminatory, culturally appropriate; Adaptable -Education needs to adapt to locally specific needs and challenge inequalities, such as gender discrimination. The recorded webinar will be publicly available shortly.

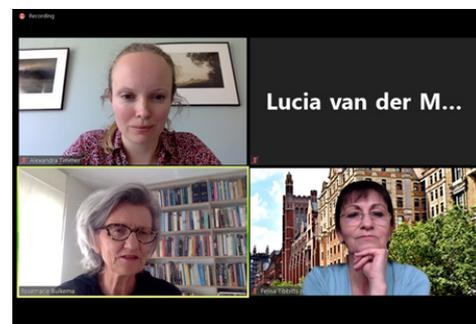
Webinar on How to Make a Podcast

On 14th April, **Katharine Fortin** and Willem Janssen hosted a webinar on podcast making which was held under the banner of the Legal Skills Academy. During the webinar, the hosts of three different podcasts series presented how they make their podcasts, sharing tips on the technology they use, the format they have chosen and the editing processes they have adopted. The seminar was open to researchers at Utrecht University and beyond and was held via Microsoft Teams. It was well attended and attracted listeners from many different universities in the Netherlands, as well as researchers from Germany, the UK and Aruba. For researchers based at Utrecht University, the film of the seminar can be found [here](#).

Webinar on Migration

On 6 June, **Salvatore Nicolosi** gave a webinar of the Jean Monnet Academic Module "The influence of migration and socio-demographic processes on the periphery of the European integration. Legal political and humanitarian aspects" hosted by the Law Faculty of the North-Western Academy of Public Administration in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation).

The Feminisation of Human Rights?



A virtual panel exploring the question "Feminization of Human Rights" took place on 29 May. This event was jointly organized by SIM and the Gender and Diversity Hub.

Felisa Tibbitts' empirical data highlighted recent statistics around women's representation and roles in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, National Human Rights Institutions and Amnesty International, where we see progress but also a great deal of variation regionally and nationally. **Alexandra Timmer**, who moderated, shared recent data from GQUAL that shows a continued underrepresentation of women on the staff of international and regional courts and tribunals, raising a question from Prof. Buikema about whether we might expect to find more women in the 'caring' roles one finds within the human rights field.

SIM faculty raised excellent points in the Q&A session. It is evident that there is much to think about!

Islamic Law on Armed Conflict

Julie Fraser presented her research at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Al-Dawoody in his course at the Geneva Academy on Islamic Law of Armed Conflict on 23 April. Julie's presentation examined the compatibility of Islamic law with international criminal law, and critiqued the International Criminal Court for failing to draw from Islamic law in its relevant cases. The presentation, entitled 'Exploring Legal Compatibilities and Pursuing Cultural Legitimacy: Islamic Law and the ICC', was based on a chapter in her forthcoming book with **Brianne McGonigle Leyh** 'Intersections of Law and Culture at the International Criminal Court' (Edward Elgar 2020).

Podcasts on International Law

On 13th April, **Katharine Fortin** was [interviewed](#) by Janet Anderson and Stephanie van den Berg, hosts of the Asymmetrical Haircuts podcast about her podcast recommendations during the lockdown. [Asymmetrical Haircuts](#) is a podcast that follows the cases dealing with international law in front of the courts and tribunals in the Hague. Katharine was asked about her podcast recommendations after having recently written a blog post on her Armed Groups and International Law blog entitled '[Podcast recommendations: legal, non, legal and pure escape](#)'

An EU Global Magnitsky Act?

On 7 April 2020, **Brianne McGonigle Leyh**, **Kushtrim Istrefi** and Dr Hanneke van Eijken (RENFORCE) took part in an expert online dialogue organized by Prof. Cedric Ryngaert from RENFORCE on the proposed EU human rights sanctions regime. It was a great event where all Law School research programs were represented with each of the researchers commenting on presentations from Dr. Alexandra Hofer, Richard Nephew and Prof. Christina Eckes. The event addressed the questions and concerns around targeted sanctions for human rights violations and corruption.

Legal Pathways for Refugees



In a recent [blog](#) **Tihomir Sabchev** from the 'Cities of Refuge' research project discusses the role of academia in opening safe and legal pathways for refugees to Europe. He shares the story behind a recent project in Italy called 'University Corridors for Refugees' and argues that the expansion and scaling up of this initiative can save lives and partially remedy the inequality of opportunity that many refugees face. The link between University Corridors and human rights will be further discussed at a workshop that will take place at this year's Toogdag on 30 June.

Moritz Baumgärtel to visit UCLA

Moritz Baumgärtel has been awarded the Fulbright Schuman Program for the academic year 2020/21. He'll be a visiting scholar at the Law School of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) from January to June 2021, where he'll be working on a research project comparing legal mobilizations in US 'sanctuary cities' and European 'cities of refuge' in collaboration with Hiroshi Motomura.

Community Service Learning



Brianne McGonigle Leyh was interviewed for her work on community service learning and her work with the Da Vinci Project, which uses Design Thinking to tackle real-world issues for societal partners on the themes of sustainability. More on the interview can be found [here](#).

Contesting Governance Platform



The Research Theme Institutions for Open Societies (IOS) has approved the creation a new IOS Research Platform, Contesting Governance. The Platform Contesting Governance builds upon an existing research group supported by the Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges, applying critical perspectives to unravel how power is constituted and contested. It addresses pertinent questions such as: How do citizens respond when they feel unprotected, abandoned or attacked by the state? How do people voice concerns and make claims in the streets, or in the courts? How do people negotiate their everyday needs and livelihoods when (private) armed actors control their material and social spaces? As an IOS Platform, the group aims to grow and connect with other researchers across the Law Department and University working on these themes. If you are interested in joining the new IOS Platform, please contact **Brianne McGonigle Leyh** (b.n.mcgonigle@uu.nl).

Four New SIM Fellows

SIM is proud to introduce our four new SIM fellows!
Dr. Machiko Kanetake, Dr. Pauline Jacobs, Dr. Lucas Roorda
and Dr. Naema Tahir.

SIM created the affiliation of 'SIM fellows' to highlight the work of those researchers and lecturers in other departments of the law school that also work substantively on human rights issues (ranging from constitutional law, to criminal law, and international law e.g.). Our SIM fellows form a wider network of cooperation across legal sub-field within Utrecht Law School, and contribute on a regular basis to SIM's



Machiko Kanetake is Assistant Professor of Public International Law at Utrecht University. She is also a senior editor of the *Leiden Journal of International Law*. Her research as a SIM fellow is guided by two inter-related domains: the interfaces between national and international law; and the interactions between international security law and international human rights law. She has previously developed the conceptual framework on the 'Interfaces between National and International Rule of Law', which served as the framework for her edited volume (Hart Publishing 2016). Based on a number of domestic court decisions, she has developed an original analysis into the domestic judicial engagement with UN human rights treaty-monitoring bodies, as published by *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* (2018) among others. She received the G.J. Wiarda Prize 2019 for her ICLQ article. She has also been coordinating the research platform on technological innovation within the Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges (2018-2020).



Lucas Roorda is Assistant Professor at the section International and European Law at Utrecht University, and a postdoc at the Utrecht Centre for Accountability and Liability Law (UCALL). He obtained his Phd in 2019, on jurisdiction in transnational civil cases concerning corporate human rights abuses. He has worked and published on the interaction between public international law, private international law and human rights law

when faced with adverse human rights impacts by non-state actors. He has previously worked as a policy advisor for the Netherlands Human Rights Institute (College voor de Rechten van de Mens), in issues including privacy, the right to housing and access to court. He is currently engaged in research on how human rights can be better integrated in liability regimes governing private conduct, especially conduct by transnational corporations.



Pauline Jacobs is Assistant Professor in criminal law and criminal procedure at the W.P.J. Pompe Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology of Utrecht University. She is affiliated with the Moutaigne Center for Rule of Law and the Administration of Justice. Pauline's research and teaching activities are focussed on criminal (procedure) law and human rights and penitentiary law. In 2016 she worked on an EU-funded European research on the theory and practice of alternatives to pre-trial detention. In 2018 and 2019 she was the national coordinator on an EU-funded research on legal aid for remand prisoners. She has published extensively on e.g. pre-trial detention and human rights, the legal position of prisoners and European and international prison oversight mechanisms, such as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). Pauline is a member of the editorial board of 'Nederlands Tijdschrift voor de Mensenrechten' (the leading Dutch Human Rights Review) and a member of the Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (Raad voor Strafrechtstoepassing en Jeugdbescherming), department administration of justice.



Naema Tahir is Assistant Professor of law at University College Roosevelt in Middelburg and senior lecturer at Webster University in Leiden. She teaches human rights, gender and world religions. Her Ph.D dissertation *The Arranged Marriage*, changing perspectives on a marital institution analyses whether and how the arranged marriage system supports the human rights standard of full and free consent. Previously, she guest lectured at Leiden University College, and practised law at Dutch and international organizations. In 2000, she worked as a lawyer with the UNHCR in Nigeria and later with the Council of Europe, where she specialized particularly in Article 19 of the European Social Charter relating to the right of migrant workers and their families. Tahir serves in the Editorial Board of Amnesty International's magazine 'Wordt Vervolgd' and is a member of the Human Rights Commission of the Advisory Council International Affairs of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tahir is an established writer of fiction and non-fiction in the Dutch language. Her writing focusses on migration narratives and on the interplay between human rights, tradition and modernity in the lives of immigrant women.

Lucia van der Meulen wins Thesis Award



Lucia van der Meulen, SIM student assistant and current Legal Research Master student, has won the Thoolen-NJCM masterthesis award for best master thesis on human rights in the Netherlands. The price is awarded for her thesis from 2018:

Combating Sexism through Human Rights: Present and potential protection in Europe' which was supervised by SIM researcher **Alexandra Timmer**. The jury found her interdisciplinary approach, linking her findings from social psychology to the human rights framework, on subtle forms of 'sexism' original and clear. Especially after #metoo, this is an urgent human rights issue.

Armed Groups and International Law

On Friday 7th February, **Katharine Fortin** gave a training on armed groups and international law at the Studiecentrum Rechtspleging (Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary). The training was given in the context of the thematic training day for the International Criminal Law and War Crimes group.

Deep Transitions Workshop

On 18-20 May The Deep Transitions Project Team, which includes Prof. Johan Schot of the Centre for Global Challenges, organized a three-day workshop on examining deep transitions in the Transatlantic zone in the twentieth century. The workshop provided critical space for discussion and cross-disciplinary collaboration. **Brianne McGonigle Leyh** participated as a commentator on paper related to Circular Economy, International Organizations and the European Union written by Dr. Florian Kern and Dr. Helen Sharp. More about the workshop and Deep Transitions Project can be found [here](#).

SIM Spotlight: Emiel Jurjens



Emiel Jurjens

What have you taken with you from your time at SIM?

First of all, I have very good memories of the people I worked with at SIM. From Cees Flinterman I learned both what it means to work at the highest level of academia and how to be an effective, as well as kind and beloved, leader. Also I will never forget the summer course in Leuven, a UU – University of Leuven co-production, which I helped organize in 2009. This brought together people from all around the world for one sun-drenched week in Belgium. We learned a lot through the course itself, and maybe equally as much from talking to each other while enjoying the wonderful Belgian hospitality.

In this new segment of the SIM newsletter we catch up with a former SIM student assistant or SIM intern to talk about their current work and their memories of SIM. This first 'SIM Spotlight' we speak to **Emiel Jurjens**, who was a student assistant at SIM from 2007 until 2009 and is now a Senior attorney-at-law at Kennedy van der Laan.

Could you elaborate on the human rights related part of your current work?

Our team is specialized in freedom of speech cases. We're in court often on behalf of Dutch and international media (print, broadcast and online). An interesting case I was recently involved in revolved around the question whether NRC was allowed to print the name of a professor in the context of an article in which he was linked to instances sexual misconduct. Weighing all circumstances of the case, the Court found this was allowed. Apart from this, my practice includes international human rights litigation in various forms. A good example of this is a recent court case which I launched on behalf of an Eritrean group in the Netherlands against the EU, as the EU is financing a project in Eritrea in the context of which forced labour is used. Finally, I am involved as a volunteer in the Russia focus group of Lawyers for Lawyers, a Dutch NGO defending lawyers at risk worldwide.

SIM Intern



During the months of April and May, Sára Vértés, an MA student in conflict studies and human rights, interned at SIM. She worked under the supervision of **Antoine Buyse** in his project on 'civic space under attack'. Sára expanded and restructured the project's research guide and bibliography. She also undertook research into the protests in Lebanon of the past half year and the linkages to civic space.

Council of Europe



In early March, **Antoine Buyse** participated in a meeting of a drafting group of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He did so on behalf of INGO (the conference of international NGOs with accreditation at the Council of Europe). The meeting led to the adoption of a draft recommendation on developing and strengthening national human rights institutions (NHRIs) by the participating countries. Hopefully, it will be adopted as a final text by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe later this year.

Legal Identity and Rebel Governance



On Friday 6th March, Katharine Fortin gave a lecture at the Public International Law Discussion Group in the beautiful Old Library of Old Souls College at Oxford University. During the lecture, Katharine presented her research on legal identity and rebel governance which will be published in the Human Rights Quarterly later this year. The research was undertaken as part of a multidisciplinary research project that has been run out of Utrecht University, Melbourne University and Gothenburg University called 'Contested Belonging: The Documentation and Creation of Legal Identity by Non-State Actors'.

Jenny Goldschmidt Independent Expert

Jenny Goldschmidt has been appointed as Independent Expert for the Collection of the Archives of the Senate and the Joint Assembly of the Netherlands.

Freedom of Expression Training



In February, **Antoine Buyse** was one of the lecturers in a seminar in Strasbourg organised by ERA, the Academy of European Law.

The seminar, attended by more than 40 practitioners from across Europe, focused on recent case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on Freedom of Expression.

Diplomat's Training



In April, **Antoine Buyse** provided recorded lectures on human rights in international relations for the newest generation of Dutch diplomats. The new group (also known in Dutch as 'het Klasje') receive several months of intensive training provided by Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations in the Hague. Due to the pandemic, most of the programme was online this year.

Tang Prize in the Rule of Law

In April 17-19 **Javier Couso** served as one of fifteen members in the Selection Committee of the "Tang Prize in the Rule of Law", an internationally recognized award based in Taiwan, which recognizes individuals or institutions who have made significant contributions to the rule of law, reflected not only in the achievement of the candidates in terms of the advancement of legal theory or practice, but also in the realization of the rule of law in contemporary societies through the influences or inspiration of the work of the candidate which every other year award. Awarded biennially, the Tang Prize bestows a cash prize of approx. US\$1.5 million, and the nomination and selection are conducted by an independent Selection Committee formed in partial cooperation with the Academia Sinica (Taiwan's top research institution). In past years, the Tang Prize in the Rule of Law was awarded to Joseph Raz (2018); Louise Arbour (2016); and Albie Sachs (2014).

Constitution Building in Chile



On March 8-18, 2020, **Javier Couso** gave a Seminar at the University of California at Berkeley (USA), entitled "Chile at the Crossroads: Social upheaval, prospects for the future, and implications for Latin America". The seminar, which was held at the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), addressed the origins, characteristics and impact of the social unrest beginning in October 2019 in Chile, as well as the constituent process that came out of it. On March 5, 2020, **Javier Couso** gave the lecture "Chile's Constitution-Making Process: 2019-2021", at Chile's Central Bank.

Generating Respect

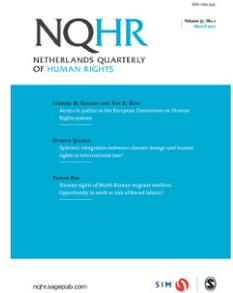


On 26th May, **Katharine Fortin** took part in a panel discussion at Geneva Academy entitled 'Generating Respect with Humanitarian Norms: The Less-Explored Avenues' with Ioana Cismas from the University of York and Emiliano Buis from the University of Buenos Aires. The panellists discussed innovative approaches to ensuring compliance, exploring the interaction between IHL and Islamic law, the role of religious leaders as influencers of state and non-state parties to armed conflicts, the relationship between emotions and IHL, and civilians' self-protection in territories under the control of armed groups. The panel can be watched [here](#).

Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

The latest issues of the NQHR of [March](#) and [June](#) 2020 feature the following articles:

- Column by Jasper Krommendijk, 'Less is more: Proposals for how UN human rights treaty bodies can be more selective'.
- Moritz Baumgärtel, 'Facing the challenge of migratory vulnerability in the European Court of Human Rights'.
- Elif Durmus, 'A typology of local governments' engagement with human rights: Legal pluralist contributions to international law and human rights'.
- Kristin Henrard, 'Integration reasoning at the ECtHR: Challenging the boundaries of minorities' citizenship'.
- Janna Wessels, 'The boundaries of universality - migrant women and domestic violence before the Strasbourg Court'.
- Column by Nico Schrijver, 'A new Convention on the human right to development: Putting the cart before the horse?'.
- Ingrid Leijten and Kaisa de Bel, 'Facing financialization in the housing sector: A human right to adequate housing for all.'
- Ignatius Jordan Nugraha, 'Human rights referendum: Dissonance between 'the will of the people' and fundamental rights?'.
- Aikaterini Tsampi, 'The new doctrine on misuse of power under Article 18 ECHR: Is it about the system of *contre-pouvoirs* within the State after all?'.
- Recent publications on international human rights.



Blogs

Between 18th-22nd May, **Katharine Fortin** and Ezequiel Heffes organised a [symposium](#) on the Armed Groups and International Law blog that addressed the [section](#) of the ICRC 2019 Challenges Report on armed groups controlling territory. The symposium was opened with posts by the ICRC and followed with analytical posts by [Elvina Pothelet](#), [Amrei Muller](#), [Annyssa Bellal](#) and [Katharine Fortin](#).

Moritz Baumgärtel, [Reaching the dead-end: M.N. and others and the question of humanitarian visas](#) (Strasbourg Observers, May 2020). In this blog, Moritz Baumgärtel discusses the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the obligations that arise for state parties to provide short-term humanitarian visas in their foreign embassies and consulates to potential asylum seekers. The post focuses on the strategic merits of the case, the issue of extra-territorial jurisdiction, and the broader question of legal pathways to asylum.

[Human Rights Here](#), the blog of the Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research, edited by two of our SIM colleagues **Felisa Tibbits** and **Elif Durmus** (together with Katerina Tsampi from the University of Groningen and Stephanie Rap from Leiden University), has been launched last December. Human Rights Here is publishing posts from human rights researchers and practitioners from around the world, with the purpose of discussing issues "on the ground" – wherever we may be -, relating to human rights, and contributing to the creation of a human rights culture in society. Most recent posts include:

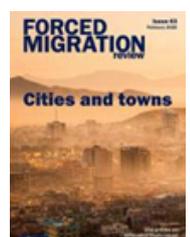
- [Tackling Violence Against Women in the Netherlands: Some Thoughts on the GREVIO Baseline Report on the Netherlands](#) – by Adriana van Dooijeweert, President of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (College van de Rechten van de Mens)
- [Youth and the Right to be Elected: Are We Beginning to Explore an Uncharted Frontier?](#) – by Daniella Zlotnik Raz, University of Haifa, Israel
- [Promoting health and environmental rights through participatory noise mapping in the city](#) – by Anna Berti Suman, Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society
- [Child-friendly procedures and practices for refugee and migrant children in Europe](#) – by Stephanie Rap, Leiden University



Julie Fraser, [Reclaiming Human Rights: While the US Detracts, Non-State Actors Step Up](#) (Opinio Juris, June 2020). In this blog, Julie Fraser explains how the global protests on racism and police violence demonstrate a commitment of Non-State actors to human rights.

Book Chapters and Articles

- **Couso, J.** "A construção da 'Privatopia': O papel do direito constitucional na experiencia neoliberal radical do Chile" (2020) 6(15) *Revista Culturas Jurídicas*.
- **Kanetake, M.** "Giving Due Consideration: A Normative Pathway between UN Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Bodies and Domestic Courts" in Krisch, N. (ed) *Entangled Legalities Beyond the State* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).
- Nolgård, O., Nygren, T., **Tibbits, F.**, Anamika, A., Benvotato, D., Enright, P., Wassermann, J., Welply, O. "A global history in a global world? Human rights in history education in the Global North and South" (2020) 7(1) *Historical Encounters*.
- **Sosa, L.P.A.** "The Istanbul Convention in the Context of Feminist Claims" in Niemi, J., Peroni, L. and Stoyanova, V. (Eds) *International Law and Violence Against Women* (Routledge, 2020) pp. 25-42.
- **Sabchev, T.** and **Baumgärtel, M.** "The path of least resistance? EU cities and locally organised resettlement" (2020) 63 *Forced Migration Review* 38.
- **Tibbits, F.** and Hagenars, P., "Planning Human Rights Education for Psychologists" in P. Hagenars, M. Playšić, N. Sveaas, U. Wagner and T. Wainwright (Eds) *Human Rights and Human Rights Education for Psychologists* (Routledge, 2020).
- **Tibbits, F.** "Deliberative democratic decision making, universal values, and cultural pluralism: A proposed contribution to



No Justice, No Peace: Why the USA needs Transitional Justice



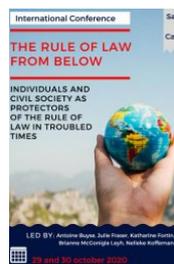
Brianne McGonigle Leyh has published a blog on why the United States of America needs Transitional Justice. The purpose of this blog is, writes Brianne, "to start a conversation about how the US can start to engage with its past and present, however uncomfortable it may be. Like the protests, transitional justice processes can serve as catalysts for the much-needed change." The blog was published on *Opinio Juris* in June and can be read [here](#).

PhD Defenses

On May 14 2020, a PhD student under the supervision of **Javier Couso**, Ricardo Lillo, got a joint PhD degree at UCLA and Universidad Diego Portales (Chile). Lillo's thesis, entitled "Understanding Due Process in Non-Criminal Matters: How to Harmonize Procedural Guarantees with the Right to a Court", was co-tutored by prof. Couso and prof. Máximo Langer (UCLA).

On 7 April 2020, **Brianne McGonigle Leyh** sat on the reading committee for Dr Iva Vukusic (Humanities). She defended her dissertation on paramilitaries in the break up of Yugoslavia. Her research was based largely on the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Her empirical findings are highly relevant not only for understanding accountability challenges in that conflict but for armed non-state actors and their functioning more generally.

Conference on the Rule of Law from Below



On 29 October 2020, Utrecht University's Montaigne Centre for the Rule of Law and Administration of Justice, together with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), will host the conference *The Rule of Law from Below*. A conference on the role of individuals and civil society as protectors of the rule of law in troubled times. The purpose of the conference is to investigate the different ways in which individuals can be protectors and defenders of the rule of law, and also explore whether attention to this perspective may influence how the rule of law is defined and understood by States and other international actors.

Upcoming SIM Events

[SIM Peter Baehr Lecture](#), 16 October, 17:15

[Conference 'The Rule of Law from Below'](#), 29-30 October, Utrecht



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