

SPEAKERS

Prof. Boaventura de Sousa Santos,
University of Coimbra;
Dr. Usha Ramanathan, Centre for the Study
of Developing Societies, India;
Ms. Christine Aghazarm, International
Organization for Migration;
Prof. Philippe Cullet, SOAS;
Dr. Jonathan Ensor, Practical Action;
Prof. Ann Stewart, University of Warwick;
Prof. Upendra Baxi, University of Warwick;
Dr. Celine Tan, University of Birmingham;
Prof. Sammy Adelman, University of
Warwick.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Julia Barbosa
Stavria Chistodoulidou
Manpavan Kaur
Paul Kohlenberg
Nimisha Kumar
Aondona Orti
Ipshita Sengupta
Andrea Meraz Sepulveda
Smriti Upadhyay
Amanda Walker

This Conference seeks to interrogate the language and imaginations of Human Rights from the perspective of the South. In so doing, it seeks to pursue and build on recent critiques of liberal human rights frameworks that emphasise both the human rights authorship and agency of communities in struggle.

The Conference does not begin with the assumption that the context of suffering in the South will be alleviated through the application of human rights law. Rather, we begin with an examination of the social contexts of suffering and struggle in order to ask the question what direction, if any, might an engagement with Human Rights provide for action against injustice.



Annual Postgraduate Student Conference

A stylized globe graphic in shades of blue and white, showing the continents. The text 'When the 'Other' Speaks: Interrogating Human Rights from the Global South' is overlaid on the globe in a blue, sans-serif font.

When the 'Other'
Speaks:
Interrogating
Human Rights from
the Global South

14-15 May 2009
10.00am – 5.00pm
Teaching Grid, Library and MS.B3.03
University of Warwick

DAY 1 – Teaching Grid
10.00am – 5.00pm

INTRODUCTORY PLENARY SESSION

Prof. **Boaventura de Sousa Santos**, University of Coimbra, Portugal

FORCED MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In this session we hope to move away from an attempt at consensus-building politics that masks the voices of those who do not count as rights-holders towards an understanding of politics as disagreement, considered through the perspective of the migrant.

1. Environmental Disasters:

Ms. **Christine Aghazarm**, International Organization for Migration will address the consequences for those who are forced out of their homes as a result of environmental devastation, focusing on the case study of the 2004 tsunami.

2. Development-induced displacement:

Dr. **Usha Ramanathan**, **Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies**, New Delhi, will focus on national legal responses to development projects. She will explore how the power of state law and judicial decisions determine the contours of legality, considering to the relationship between law and legality, institutional power and the construction of legality, and pragmatism and the reconstruction of legality.

LUNCH BREAK

SUBSISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

By relating the food crisis to international trade practices, this panel seeks to interrogate the extent to which the rights framework and rights languages (i.e. human rights, the right to food, women's rights, fair trade) are (un)able to address the mentioned crisis.

Prof. Philippe Cullet, Professor of Law, SOAS, will start the panel with his considerations on food security, presenting the debate about IPRs as human rights. The discussion will be framed by considering that intellectual property rights under TRIPS, through the patenting of seed varieties, cause farm input prices to increase.

Prof. **Ann Stewart**, University of Warwick, will address gender issues in the context of international food trade, considering the fact that women are disproportionately affected by changes in agriculture, and are also disproportionately absent from policy discussions.

Dr. **Jonathan Ensor**, from Practical Action, will present his understanding of food sovereignty, that is, the right of all peoples, countries or state unions to be able to define their own agricultural and food policies, without policy imposition by multilateral agencies nor any dumping in their local markets by third countries.

DINNER

Social Studies Café, 7.30pm

DAY 2 - MS.B3.03
10.00am – 12.30pm

GOVERNMENTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In this session, the governments in the Global South shall be examined as a subject of the dominant human rights discourse in their dual role as (i) agents of human rights protection and promotion and (ii) perpetrators of human rights violations.

Prof **Upendra Baxi**, Univeristy of Warwick, will address the (in)justice issues that arise in the international refugee protection framework, which operates on a narrow formulation of what constitutes a 'refugee', and places the burden of hosting refugee inflows with the Global South.

Dr. **Celine Tan**, University of Birmingham, will discuss how global economic governance currently fails to provide adequate regulatory structures to ensure burden sharing of the dislocations caused by globalization. The presentation will argue that global economic challenges of today demand international cooperation.

DAY 2 - Teaching Grid
13.30pm – 16.30pm

CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION

Prof. **Sammy Adelman**, University of Warwick;
Prof. **Upendra Baxi**, University of Warwick.