

WEBINAR
**“Human rights research and
education – experiences,
good practices and
challenges.**
**A seminar in celebration
of 30 years of the NCU
Human Rights Department”**

26 November 2020

ORGANIZER:
Human Rights Department
Faculty of Law and Administration
Nicolaus Copernicus University



NCU Human Rights Department
kindly invites you to a

WEBINAR

**„Human rights research and
education – experiences, good
practices and challenges. A seminar
in celebration of 30 years of the
NCU Human Rights Department”**

26 November 2020 (Thursday)

The webinar will be held partially in
Polish (Introduction and Part 1) and
partially in English (Part 2) via
BigBlueButton platform.

To participate as guest please use
the following link:

<https://vc.umk.pl/b/jul-kxx-6ku>

Registration for the event
is not required.

The Human Rights Department was established at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Faculty of Law and Administration in 1990, as the first academic unit of this kind in Poland. Unlike 30 years ago, today the need for human rights education is rather undisputed and realized on different levels and in different contexts. Knowledge of human rights standards is important for both the rights holders, as well as for the duty bearers. Human rights play a significant role in shaping legal professionals and broadly defined public officials. Human rights education and research should thus be regarded as an important tool (mechanism) for the realization of the principle of subsidiarity. Teaching and researching human rights is more important in times of economic or democratic crises, other turbulences and threats to human survival. It is thus worthwhile to reflect upon what to teach and how to teach, as well as to discuss the weakness and potential of human rights research.

The need for a specific university education and professional training in the ECHR system has recently been reminded by the COE Committee of Ministers (Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)5 on the system of the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training). Education and professional training definitely play a fundamental role in enhancing a full implementation of the Convention (as well as other human rights instruments) in the domestic laws, preventing violations and promoting human rights.

We hope that our webinar will provide some insights and reflections on the role and future challenges of human rights education and training, as well as the impact that human rights academics and researchers have for human rights protection. We would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished speakers that agreed to share their experiences, reflections and ideas, despite the challenging situation of global emergency.

PROGRAMME



- 10:00–10:15 – Welcoming address (Prof. dr hab. Bożena Gronowska – Head of the NCU Human Rights Department)
- 10.15 – 11.00 – Keynote speech (Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Jasudowicz – Founder of the NCU Department of Human Rights)

11.00 – 12.45 – PART 1 (in Polish) – Human rights research and education in Poland

- 11.00 – 11.30 – „Edukacja praw człowieka w dobie cyfrowej” (Prof. dr hab. C. Mik, UKSW)
- 11.30 – 12.00 – „Dydaktyka praw człowieka na Polskich uniwersytetach – stan obecny i przyszłe wyzwania” (Dr hab. M. Balcerzak, prof. UMK, Dr Julia Kapelańska-Pręgoswska, Dr Piotr Sadowski)
- 12.00 – 12.30 – „Nauka praw człowieka w Polsce” (Prof. dr hab. Roman Wieruszewski, Dr Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska, PCPC INP PAN)
- 12.30 – 12.45 – Discussion and questions from the participants

12.45–13.00 – break

13.00 – 15.15 – PART 2 (in English) – Human rights research and education in Europe

- 13.00 – 13.30 – “Human rights education and the Council of Europe” (Eva Pastrana, Head of HELP Programme)
- 13.30 – 14.00 – “The Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) – Networking for Change” (Prof. Kasey McCall Smith, University of Edinburgh, AHRI President)
- 14.00 – 14.30 – “Reaching out to universities and research institutes: the Open Council of Europe Academic Networks (OCEAN)” (Dr Olaf Köndgen, Senior Project Manager, OCEAN, Council of Europe, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI))
- 14.30 – 15.00 – “The Concept of Human Dignity in Human Rights Research and Education” (Dr Elaine Webster, Director, Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law, University of Strathclyde, AHRI Executive Secretary)
- 15.00 – 15.15 – Discussion and questions from the participants

THE BEGINNINGS – A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NCU HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

The Human Rights Department at the Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland) was established on the initiative of Professor Tadeusz Jasudowicz in 1990 as the first university unit of this kind in Poland. The early years of its functioning were demanding and most of the effort had been directed towards developing specific human-rights oriented courses (e.g. „Human rights and the judiciary”, „Protection of victims of crimes and abuses by the public authorities”, „European human rights law”, „International humanitarian law”). The Department also struggled to build up its library despite a limited budget, with the help of, *inter alia*, the Poznań Centre of Human Rights. Since the very beginning members of the Department participated in international conferences and had been organizing conferences in Poland. In 1991, in cooperation with Dutch academics and the Dutch Helsinki Committee, the Department organized a course for Polish legal practitioners „The Protection of Human Rights in International Law”. The Department’s Chair - Professor Tadeusz Jasudowicz had also initiated projects focused on the wider human rights education among the society, especially in schools. A curriculum for a specific teacher’s training course had been drafted. In 1993 a unique project was launched with the aim of popularisation of human rights among the youth - an All-Polish Human Rights Competition. The Department coordinated the project for 20 years. Also in 1993, the efforts of Professor Jasudowicz to join the UNESCO Chairs network were successfully finalized.



OUR SPEAKERS

(in the order of appearance)

Host: Prof. dr hab. Bożena Gronowska

Head of the Human Rights Department at the Faculty of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. She was a trainee at the Department of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe. In the early 90's she was an expert of the Polish Senate Office of Legal Analyses as well as of other governmental institutions dealing with European integration. Former member of the Human Rights Advisory Board for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has a vast and long-lasting experience in close co-operation with such organizations or institutions like the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) in London, Penal Reform International (PRI), as well as with the Central Management of Prisons in Warsaw (1990-1997). In 2017-2019 she was a member of the Management Board of the Polish Section of International Association of Lawyers. Bożena Gronowska specializes in international and national human rights law, penitentiary issues, criminology, victimology and criminal procedure. She is also a member of the scientific councils in prestigious academic journals and conferences.

Keynote speaker: Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Jasudowicz

Born in the Knowno district in 1944. At the age of 3, together with his mother and siblings he had been transported by the Soviets to Siberia (sowchoz Dierbiniec at the Krasjonarski District). He had spent there 8 years. On the 29 December 1955 the family was repatriated to Poland. He had been an active member of the political opposition during the communist regime in Poland. In 1984 he was arrested for distributing independent publications. He joined the NCU Law Faculty in 1966 and in 1990 became the first Chair of the Human Rights Department. He is the Author of more than 130 scientific publications (monographs, articles, studies). He is also well-known for his pioneering translations of international instruments and their popularisation among the wide public. He has promoted 20 doctors of international law who became acknowledged academics and legal professionals. For his academic work and outstanding achievements in human rights education he was awarded the Medal of the Commission of National Education, the Medal of the Polish Commissioner of Human Rights and the second highest civil honour - the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Prof. dr hab. Cezary Mik

Head of the International and European Law Department at the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. Coordinator of the European Law Division at the Chancellery of the Polish Parliament. Author of more than a 100 scientific and popular scientific publications. His research interests cover primarily EU law, international law and human rights law. From 1988 to 2004 faculty member of the NCU Human Rights Department, where he had defended his PhD and post-doc dissertations: Zbiorowe prawa człowieka: analiza krytyczna koncepcji (1991) and Koncepcja normatywna europejskiego prawa praw człowieka (1995). Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration since 2018.

Prof. dr hab. Roman Wieruszewski

Head of the Chair of constitutional law and human rights at the European School of Law and Administration, member of the Committee of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Retired professor of the Institute of Legal Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences, chair of the Poznan Human Rights Centre till December 2017. From 1992 to 1995 Head of the Former Yugoslavia unit in the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, from 1996 to 1998 Chief of Mission of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Field Operation in the Former Yugoslavia in Sarajevo, from 1998 to 2000 and from 2003 to 2006 Member of the UN Human Rights Committee (Vice-chairman from 2002 to 2004).

Dr Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska

Ph.D. in law; assistant professor and head of the Poznań Human Rights Centre of the Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; member of the Scientific Board of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Cultural Gender and Identity Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University; expert of the European Commission.

OUR SPEAKERS

(in the order of appearance)

Mrs Eva Pastrana

Head of HELP Unit, Council of Europe (CoE). Coordinator of the CoE "HELP in the 28" Programme, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI). Former Advisor to EU Adviser on Constitutional, Legal Issues and Human Rights to Georgia and ex-CoE Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg. Human Rights Attaché to the EU Delegation in Georgia (2009-2015) Security Reform/Justice Attaché to the EU Delegation to the Philippines (2004-2009). Spanish Government and General Council of Judiciary, Nicaragua (2002-2004), Spanish NGOs and Foundation working in Middle East and Maghreb (1994-2001).

Prof. Casey McCall-Smith

Lecturer in Public International Law and Programme Director for the LLM in Human Rights. She is a US qualified lawyer where she practiced for several years before moving to academia. Recent and current research projects have included a number of edited collections, including V Ruiz Abou-Nigm, K McCall-Smith and D French (eds), *Linkages and Boundaries in Private and Public International Law* (Hart 2018) and K McCall-Smith, J Wouters and F Gómez Isa (eds), *The Faces of Human Rights* (Hart 2019). She is currently involved in a multi-year project examining variable international law issues relating to detention operations and military commissions in Guantánamo Bay, as well as the implementation of children's rights in Scotland. Programme director for the LLM in Human Rights. She is the Director of the Global Justice Academy, a CAHSS Global Justice Fellow and serves on the University's Modern Slavery Working Group. In April 2017, she assumed the position of Executive Chair of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI).

Dr Olaf Köndgen

Expert of Islamic criminal law. Doctoral thesis: "Codifying a jurists' law: Islamic criminal legislation and Supreme Court case law in the Sudan under Numairi and Bashir", defended in 2013 at the University of Amsterdam. Author of several articles and books. Associated with the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation projects in Egypt and Jordan (from 1993 till 2000). Held various positions at the Council of Europe. Since 2020 Senior Project Manager at the Open Council of Europe Academic Networks, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law.

Dr Elaine Webster

Elaine Webster is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland. She is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law and current Executive Secretary of the Association of Human Rights Institutes. Her core research focuses on interpretation of the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment (*Dignity, Degrading Treatment and Torture in Human Rights Law: The Ends of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights*, 1st Edition, Routledge 2018). She also has interests in the right to human rights education, and the concept of human dignity in human rights education.