5th Annual Han-Jyun Hou Conference

The Human Rights Implementation Gap

HOSTED BY THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
CO-SPONSORED BY THE CITIZENSHIP, RIGHTS AND CULTURAL BELONGING TRANSDISCIPLINARY AREA OF EXCELLENCE
& GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION (GSO) AT

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Organized by Carl Edward Kalmick (ckalmic1@binghamton.edu) and Brendan Skip Mark (bmark2@binghamton.edu)
Conference Schedule

**Morning Session (UUW 325)**

8:30 - 9:00  Breakfast

9:00 – 9:40  Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat, University of Connecticut
            “Human Rights Norms and Their Rivals: A Historical Analysis of Challenges”

9:45 - 10:25  David L. Cingranelli & Mikhail Filippov, Binghamton University
              “Why Some Countries Are Not Headed in the Right Direction”

10:25 - 10:35  Break

10:35 - 11:15  K. Chad Clay, University of Georgia
               “Empowerment, Outcome, or Both? Interdependence among Labor Rights in Law & Practice”

11:20 - 12:00  Shareen Hertel, University of Connecticut

**Lunch & Poster Session (UU, Old Union Hall)**
(poster session begins at 1:00)

12:10 - 2:00

**Afternoon Session (UUW 325)**

2:15 - 2:55  Will H. Moore, Arizona State University
            “Reflections on Research on, and the Practice of, Human Rights”

3:00 - 3:40  Amanda Murdie, University of Georgia
            “Learning Experiences: How Past Dissent Affects Opinions Regarding Peaceful Demonstration and Expression Rights”

3:40 - 3:50  Break

3:50 - 4:30  David L. Richards, University of Connecticut
            “State Commitment to International Law: Violence Against Women”
Poster Session
(1:00 pm in UU, Old Union Hall)

Stephen Bagwell, University of Georgia
"Working for Development: Worker Rights and Multi-Dimensional Development"

Zack Bowersox, Emory University
“Natural Disasters and Human Trafficking: Do Disasters Affect a State’s Ability to Confront Trafficking?”

Thomas Briggs and SerCAN Canbolat, University of Connecticut

Marc Davignon, Binghamton University
“No Representation with Taxation: How the Informal Economy Undermines Human Rights”

Kimberly Frugé, Florida State University
“Human Right Organizations, Mobilized Dissent, and Incentives to (Not) Repress”

Takiyah Harper, University of Connecticut

Carl Edward Kalmick, Binghamton University
“Investigating Attitudes and Human Rights Protections Regarding Sexual Minorities”

Brendan Skip Mark, Binghamton University
“IMF Policy Compliance and Labor Rights Consequences in the 21st Century”

Carolin Maney Purser, University of Georgia
“Conceptualizing and Measuring Human Security”

Alyssa Webb, University of Connecticut
Presentation Abstracts

Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat, University of Connecticut
“Human Rights Norms and Their Rivals: A Historical Analysis of Challenges”
ABSTRACT: Although human rights have been expanding and advancing as international norms, they are not fully accepted and are often challenged by rival international norms. “State sovereignty” is a rival norm that has prevailed over the years and upheld by all UN member states. Pointing to some other international norms that gained significance at specific periods and supported by different state groups, this paper examines “the age of rights,” by dividing it into three periods (1945-80, 1980-1990, and post-1990). For each period, it looks into the rivalries established among human rights norms by competing international blocs or state groups, as well as other global norms that compete with the international human rights norms. It contends that although “the age of rights” has always co-existed with “an age of ambiguity” that embodied various rivalries, there was a brief opportunity for the international human rights norms to triumph at the end of the Cold War but the victorious Western states supported alternative global norms that undermine human rights.

David L. Cingranelli and Mikhail Filippov, Binghamton University
“Why Some Countries Are Not Headed in the Right Direction”
ABSTRACT: During the 2016 US presidential campaign voters were often asked whether they thought the United States was “heading in the right direction.” In every survey, the majority of respondents thought it was not—and they were right. According to a wide variety of human rights and governance indicators, over the past 30 years or so, the United States has not been on an improving path. In fact, the United States is not alone. Over the same period, only about half of the world’s countries are improving on that same set of indicators. Apparently, the “improving path” group has institutional arrangements that allow their political systems to successfully adapt to a rapidly changing global environment. The other group does not. We argue that the institutions, state capacity, and long-term challenges jointly determine which path a nation is on. We begin our work by showing that about half of the countries of the world improved their performance on human rights indicators between 1981 and 2011. We identify the countries in the two groups and will show the remarkable similarity in trends for a wide variety of human rights and governance indicators for countries in each group. One group is improving on human rights and governance indicators; the other is stagnating or getting worse.

K. Chad Clay, University of Georgia
“Empowerment, Outcome, or Both? Interdependence among Labor Rights in Law & Practice”
ABSTRACT: While economic rights have mostly been ignored by cross-national human rights scholars, labor rights, i.e. the rights of people to employment and reasonable treatment in the workplace, have received an increasing amount of attention in recent years. Still, labor rights have primarily been studied through the lens of rights that empower workers to organize and pursue better conditions in their workplaces, i.e. “union rights,” while “substantive rights,” i.e. those rights that set out minimum standards to ensure that the worker has a reasonable standard of living, have largely been excluded. In this article, we introduce a new dataset, the Worker’s Rights in Law & Practice Data Project (WorkR), and use it to demonstrate that the causes surrounding protection of these two types of rights differ from one another and that a lack of state capacity may very well lead governments to trade protection of one type for the other.
Shareen Hertel, University of Connecticut
ABSTRACT: There is a longstanding gap between rhetorical commitment and actual enforcement of economic and social rights. This gap is particularly pronounced in relation to business and human rights, where rhetorical "capture" is a significant risk (i.e., the hijacking of human rights rhetoric by business and/or government actors who seek to limit and/or weaken the level and scope of implementation of human rights claim-making that people can make in relation to business entities). This talk will focus on the twin challenges of establishing victims’ right to remedy in this arena, and of calculating what sufficient remedy entails. In addition, the talk will explore the possibility of pre-empting remedy by actively engaging community members in stakeholder dialogue before problems emerge. Such preemptive engagement could move the discourse and practice on business and human rights beyond addressing individualized claims to addressing broader community-based notions of a minimum floor of protections and entitlements inherent to the cost of doing business.

Will H. Moore, Arizona State University
"Reflections on Research on, and the Practice of, Human Rights"
ABSTRACT: During the arc of my career human rights has grown from a fringe area studies position to a small, but main stream, position in political science. Has that work influenced the practice of human rights? I ruminate on the issue, and comment on what we might expect going forward.

Amanda Murdie, University of Georgia
"Learning Experiences: How Past Dissent Affects Opinions Regarding Peaceful Demonstration and Expression Rights"
ABSTRACT: Why do some people support peaceful demonstration and expression rights and others do not? This paper focuses on individual-level opinions concerning the rights to peaceful demonstration and expression in 18 countries. Drawing on theories from social psychology and contentious politics, we argue that opinions about these rights are associated with a country’s past experiences with nonviolent and violent dissent. A country’s experiences with nonviolent protests are associated with more support for peaceful demonstration and expression rights. Conversely, past experiences with violent dissent are associated with less individual-level support of these rights. These past experiences can demonstrate the efficacy of collective action. Using multilevel modeling techniques, we find support for our argument when it comes to public opinion regarding the right to peaceful demonstration. Our argument serves as another pathway through which a country’s past experiences with protest could influence the nature of current dissent and human rights within a state.

David L. Richards, University of Connecticut
"State Commitment to International Law: Violence Against Women"
ABSTRACT: States signal commitment to treaties in many different ways, therefore, one’s approach in assessing the effect of treaty commitment on state behavior must reflect this variety of signals. We use a five-item measurement strategy to assess state commitment to CEDAW and examine the effect of that commitment on treaty-related state behavior.
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