



Call for Papers

The joint PhD Program on “Human Rights, Society, and Multi-Level Governance” offered by the University of Padua (Italy), University of Zagreb – Faculty of Law (Croatia), Western Sydney University (Australia), and the University of Nicosia (Cyprus)

Invites submission for an international Conference on

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD OF WICKED PROBLEMS

Zagreb, Croatia

6-7 June, 2019

The two-day conference will analyse how local governance interacts with human rights in the context of contemporary “wicked problems”.

Local governments function in an environment which imposes many challenges. These challenges are more and more frequently identified as “wicked problems”. Indeed, the main characteristics of the environment in which local governments have to operate are complexity, dynamics, non-linearity, and perplexity. Local governments can hardly predict the implications of terrorist attacks, migration waves, massive shooting, pollution, or natural disasters such as floods, tsunamis or wildfires.

Wicked problems endanger local communities of people and call for innovative local policies. People wish from their municipalities and search within them for security, solidarity, jobs, support and engagements, quality of public services, political participation, influence, identity, protection of cultural tradition, inclusion, even self-realisation in cultural, artistic and other activities. There is pressure on municipalities to be more effective and more responsive, with less public money, forcing municipalities to find their own innovative ways of dealing with wicked problems, building their capacities, and searching for more effective solutions.

Wicked problems also endanger human rights and call for their re-actualisation. Some of the most recent human rights documents including the European Charter of Fundamental Rights respond to some new challenges, but not to all of them. Some rights are still designed in a relatively old-fashioned manner indicating that there is a need for re-framing and complementing them.

The conference intends to discuss innovative local policies and consider contributions towards re-affirming and re-framing human rights in the perspective of local communities, according to a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. The call is open for papers offering sociological, administrative, organisational, political science, legal, economic and other insights into local governance, human rights, and contemporary wicked problems and similar challenges for local communities.

Moreover, papers dealing with local governments' role at the supranational level in standard-setting and for the promotion of human rights and the creation of conditions for their effective realisation are welcome. Papers may also address the efforts in the realisation of political, economic, social, cultural and other rights carried out by local governments', and their increasingly important role in protecting and promoting democracy and the rule of law vis-à-vis regressive trends in politics.

Organising Committee:

Giuseppe Giordan, University of Padua

Paolo De Stefani, University of Padua

Ivan Koprić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Chair

Mihovil Škarica, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law

Siniša Zrinščak, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law

Key Dates

March 25th, 2019 – Abstracts (300-400 words) should be sent to ivan.kopric@pravo.hr

April 10th, 2019 – Notification of acceptance

There are no fees for attendance. Participants are responsible for securing their own funding for travelling and accommodation.

Questions

Please direct inquiries in connection with the Conference to:

Mihovil Škarica, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, mskarica@pravo.hr

Venue: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Trg Republike Hrvatske 14, Zagreb, Croatia