

Human Rights in an Age of Inequality

Monday, October 7, 2019

Elebash Recital Hall | The Graduate Center, CUNY

Conference Schedule

9:15

Opening Remarks

John Torpey and Manu Bhagavan

9:30-10:45

Opening Keynote

Samuel Moyn

Respondent: Eric Weitz

11:15-12:30

Citizenship, Migration, Stateless Persons, and Refugees

Carol Gould (moderator), Fred Cooper, Marc Edelman, Donna Stanton

2:00 - 3:15

Social Media, Big Tech, Democracy, and Human Rights

Jessie Daniels (moderator), Janet Haven, Cathy O'Neil, Mutale Nkonde

3:45 - 5:00

Human Rights, the Law, and Public Policy

Anil Kalhan (moderator), Teng Biao, Jessica Neuwirth, Ken Roth

6:00 - 7:30

Evening Keynote: Human Rights and Inequality

John Torpey (Moderator), Abhijit Banerjee, Yasheng Huang, Paul Krugman, Kathryn Sikkink

Please RSVP at RBInstitute@gc.cuny.edu



Conference Schedule

9:15

Opening Remarks

John Torpey and Manu Bhagavan

9:30-10:45

Opening Keynote

Samuel Moyn

Respondent: Eric Weitz

Sam Moyn's recent work argues that the human rights framework, while useful in some respects, is "not enough" in an unequal world. He argues, instead, for a recommitment to welfare states.

11:15-12:30

Citizenship, Migration, Stateless Persons, and Refugees

Carol Gould (moderator), Fred Cooper, Marc Edelman, Domna Stanton

Who has rights and who does not? What is the source of rights: states, human consensus, or something else entirely? What happens to people on the move or who no longer have a home? Are human rights more needed now than ever?

2:00 - 3:15

Social Media, Big Tech, Democracy, and Human Rights

Jessie Daniels (moderator), Janet Haven, Cathy O'Neil, Mutale Nkonde

Social media once promised to expand democratic spaces and usher in a more enlightened era. But online spaces have proven dangerous, conducive to threats and violence of all kinds, even as they have also facilitated mobilization to address moral outrages of various kinds. Some argue that they have expanded democratic voice at the cost of democracy itself.

3:45 - 5:00

Human Rights, the Law, and Public Policy

Anil Kalhan (moderator), Teng Biao, Jessica Neuwirth, Ken Roth

How have human rights been encoded and enacted? Are legal mechanisms necessary or are moral declarations sufficient to effect positive behavioral changes? Are certain kinds of states more conducive to human rights? That is, is democracy necessary for human rights to exist? Can human rights and authoritarianism go hand in hand?

6:00 - 7:30

Evening Keynote: Human Rights and Inequality

John Torpey (Moderator), Abhijit Banerjee, Yasheng Huang, Paul Krugman, Kathryn Sikkink

We are living in a time of economic inequality and of unequal access to quality education, to quality healthcare, to clean water, to capital, to basic resources. How do human rights address people's needs in this kind of environment? Do they help or hinder a quest for freedom, justice, and equality?