

Human rights justification: empirical webinar series

Work-in-progress webinars on HRJs cross-cutting issues

Organized by the Institute of International Relations Prague (CZ)¹

Background

The term Human Rights Justification (HRJs) has been used to conceptualise how states use the narrative of human rights in justifying their (legislative and political) decisions. This is the focus of the three-years Horizon Europe project HRJust (*States' Practice of Human Rights Justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*): with a focus on three thematic areas (climate change, migration and COVID-19), the project aims at providing a new theoretical framework for HRJs.

The research has been carried out not only at a theoretical level but also in developing a new methodology that aims to strengthen transnational democracy, namely the bottom-up model of the Systematic Ongoing Direct Civil Society Engagement (ODCSE) methodology. Through a constant engagement with civil society in the co-production of new knowledge, the ODCSE method helps to identify, among others, the gaps in individual human rights protection.

An important step in the research has been to test the findings of the thematic areas of research at the empirical level. A dedicated work-package (WP) of the project has been devoted to processing data through the lens of sociology, law and anthropology. Also, a cross-cutting perspective has been included with a focus on gender, intersectionality and inclusive democracy issues.

The *Human rights justification: empirical webinar series* is dedicated to the above-mentioned topics. HRJust team members and external experts will delve into the emerging topics connected to HRJs, stimulating a vivid discussion.

Participants

The webinar series brings together members of the HRJust Consortium, representatives from academia, policy officers, international organizations and civil society with a focus on HRJust-related areas of expertise.

Expected Outcomes

The *Human rights justification: empirical webinar series* is organized within the framework of the activities of HRJust WP7 (Empirical – cross-cutting) activities.

Overall, the *Human rights justification: empirical webinar series* is meant to ensure knowledge sharing, information flow and understanding of emerging issues from the HRJust thematic WPs (Climate, COVID and Migration), in order to promote discussion and dialogue on human rights justifications through the lens of inclusive democracy, gender and intersectionality, as well as including a sociological and anthropological perspective. This in turn will contribute to formulating conclusive policy recommendations within WP7.

All seminars will be conducted in the form of webinars (in some cases, also in hybrid form, depending on the capacity and availability of the speakers and organizers). The recordings, where available, will be included in the Digital Library of the Intersect Observatory,² together with relevant materials that will be distributed to interested stakeholders, to continue the relevant discussions online and offline.

¹ Co-leader of HRJust WP7. The event is organized in the framework and with the support of the Horizon Europe project HRJust (*States' Practice of Human Rights Justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*), GA no. 101094346. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

² HRJust Intersect Observatory: <https://hrjust-intersect-observatory.eu/>.



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<https://hrjust-intersect-observatory.eu/events/empirical-webinar-series/human-rights-justification-empirical-webinar-series-programme/>

Webinar with civil society engagement

(by invitation only)

23 January 2025, 9.30-10.30 CET

Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/awf-uxri-nnd>

Insights from the fieldwork activities conducted in the context of climate litigation

Dr Petra Ditrichová, Institute of International Relations Prague (CZ)

* Recording and report from the webinar will be available afterwards on the Intersect Observatory website
– accessible by Consortium members and invited stakeholders (after log in)

Format of the webinar

Presentation of fieldwork activities conducted in the context of climate litigation (as part of the activities carried out by WP6 Climate of the HRJust project) by the research teams of the World Trade Institute of the University of Bern (CH) and of the Institute of International Relations Prague (CZ), followed by discussion with selected stakeholders as part of the civil society engagement exercise.

Abstract of the presentation

Under the EU-funded HRJust project which aims to address significant gaps in human rights regulations and protection, the aim of this webinar is to share with you the findings of the IIR empirical research project which mapped how States use human rights justifications when responding to climate change. The research project teams of the World Trade Institute of the University of Bern and of the Institute of International Relations Prague interviewed more than 40 interviewees having either policy, judicial, academic or NGO backgrounds related to climate adjudication, regulation or action. Please join us to hear what the strengths and weaknesses of arguing for climate action with human rights are and what the related challenges are.



Short bio of the speaker

Dr. Petra Ditrichová is an Associate Researcher at the Centre for International Law of the Institute of International Relations Prague where she is involved in Horizon Europe HRJust project. She works as legal adviser at Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic. Her area of expertise is international humanitarian law and international human rights law. She is Vice-President of the International Society of Military Law and Law of War, and external legal expert for the Czech Red Cross.



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