

GGG Teaching Assistantship Programme 2015/16

Lecture Series

Human Rights in Crisis? Perspectives on Politics, Culture and Gender

Organizational Details

Time: Wednesdays, 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)

Location: Room E112, Philosophikum II, Haus E, Karl-Glöckner-Str. 21, 39394 Giessen

Target group: Undergraduate students, doctoral candidates, and postdoctoral researchers

[1] <i>Quo Vadis? Human Rights in South East Asia: From Promotion to Protection</i>	
Speaker:	Asmin Fransiska
Date:	Wednesday, November 04, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
Content As an introductory lecture, we will elaborate generally the human rights situation in South East Asia. According to United Nations findings and investigations most of South East Asia countries have had several human rights violation records. These violations vary from torture to refusing the right to health, from the freedom of religion or belief to women rights. Although, some of the countries like Indonesia and Philippines are leading the democratization wave in Asia, or such as Singapore which is economically well developed, there are still obstacles regarding the human rights fulfillments. Even ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations) as a hope for delivering human rights issues could not remove the obstacles to enforce human rights. In South East Asia, the human rights is on the agenda of each states, but lacking the implimentation regarded the failure of the legal mechanism within those states, corruption among the law enforcement is one of the obstacles too. This lecture will discuss the causes of human rights violations in the South East Asia region and the role of ASEAN in trying to uphold the human rights protection.	

[2] Drug Policy in South East Asia: One Step Forward, Two Steps Backward	
Speaker:	Asmin Fransiska
Date:	Wednesday, November 11, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
Drug Policy usually contains three elements: demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction. Those elements should be preserved by human rights principles and the rule of law. However, drug policy in South East Asia primarily focuses on the supply reduction of drugs and the implementation of the international drug control or so called “war on drugs”. The negative result of this war are human rights violations such as forced rehabilitation towards drug users, torture, limited access to the essential medicine and death penalty for drug offences on the one hand, and on the another hand there is evidently no reduction of the expansion of the illicit drug market in the area. Decriminalization is one of the approach that countries in South East Asia would like to implement. However, would those negative consequences caused by war on drugs be vanished when countries in South East Asia try to promote the decriminalization approach for drug users? Or the establishment of compulsory rehabilitation centers as one of the ways to reduce illicit drug users under “decriminalization approach”? What should be done to balance the goals on reducing the consumption of drugs and illicit drug trafficking? Are those goals achievable and feasible under the current harsh laws against people who use drugs in all of South East Asian countries?	

[3] Cultural Human Rights in Modern Music Youth Cultures	
Speaker:	Pavla Samoylova
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Content</u> Usually cultural human rights are considered as rights in connection to “traditional” cultural differentiation based on national or ethnic identification and self-identification. The objective of these rights is to guarantee that people and communities have an access to culture and can participate in the culture of their choice. Cultural rights are human rights that aim to ensure the enjoyment of culture and its components in conditions of equality, human dignity and non-discrimination. Meanwhile, with a rise of modern youth subcultures, that differentiate themselves from the larger cultural system to which they belong, can we similarly apply the idea of cultural rights to these (sub)cultural groups? In this lecture we will focus on such aspects as stereotype-based discrimination, limitation of artistic self-expression and legal restrictions that prevent from participation in cultural activities. The topic is not about controversial behavior or political activities within subcultures, but about artistic, musical and fashion identification that does not challenge social standards but often becomes an object of discrimination.	

[4] Social Media and the Protest Culture in the Networked Public Sphere	
Speaker:	Ahmet Görge
Date:	Wednesday, November 25, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Content</u> In this lecture we will discuss the potential of social media such as Facebook and Twitter in the context of mobilization of social groups and individuals through emerging cultures of broad participation. Over the past ten years, the public spheres have been dramatically expanded by participatory web-based technologies. This course will focus on various arguments for and against this central claim by examining historical and present-day understandings of the public sphere. The course will investigate the mobilizing potential of the internet by examining the political participation of citizens who contribute to public knowledge systems via social media tools that allow for political participation such as the organization of protests. In this context, the effect of the social media on expanding the power of the discourses in the contemporary social movements will be discussed.	

[5] Juristische Herausforderungen der Westafrikanischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft (ECOWAS)	
Speaker:	Kangnikoé Bado
Date:	Wednesday, December 02, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Inhalt</u> Die Westafrikanische Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft (Economic Community of West African States) wurde als eine intraregionale Organisation von derzeit 15 Staaten am 28.05.1975 in Lagos gegründet. Die ECOWAS strebt in erster Linie eine beschleunigte und nachhaltige Wirtschaftsentwicklung Westafrikas an. In der Vorlesung wird zunächst ein Überblick über die Geschichte, Struktur und die Ziele der ECOWAS geben, um anschließend folgende Fragen aus einer rechtswissenschaftlichen Perspektive genauer zu beleuchten: Welche Bedeutung hat die ECOWAS für die westafrikanischen Staaten und im globalen Kontext? Was sind die juristischen Grundlagen einer solchen Organisationsstruktur? Aus einer vergleichenden Analyse mit der Struktur der Europäischen Union werden dabei die Potenziale, sowie die Herausforderungen und Probleme der ECOWAS diskutiert.	

[6] Deconstructing the link between Transitional Justice and Anti-Corruption Fields	
Speaker:	Prosper Simbarashe Maguchu
Date:	Wednesday, December 09, 2015 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Content</u> The aim of this lecture is to focus on the possibilities of linking the two emerging fields of Anti-Corruption and Transitional Justice together. In a nutshell this introductory course will discuss inter alia the framework of corruption from a transitional justice perspective, by underscoring both, the conceptual and practical implications of integrating corruption into the transitional justice discourse. The lecture will give a modest contribution into a burgeoning literature that seeks to establish the nexus between transitional justice, socio-economic rights and anti-corruption policies. Accordingly it will be delivered by a legal scholar with an unconcealed penchant for multidisciplinary approach when dealing with intellectually and thought provoking academic problems. Suffice to say this discourse will ultimately demystify the legal jargon that naturally intimidates both students and academics outside the legal fraternity. Consequently this lecture will invariably stimulate thoughtful and candid debates on how to tackle the scourge of corruption within transitional states.	

[7] Gender equality as a Human Right: The Economy Sector in Africa	
Speaker:	Wisdom Momodu
Date:	Wednesday, January 13, 2016 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Content</u> Gender equality means equality between male and female without discrimination against gender. The equal participation of male and female in political representation, labour access, educational access etc, without any form of discrimination. The Gender inequality in the economy sector in Africa has its root from time immemorial as this grew out of the increasing number of female workers who are not adequately protected by legislation governing labour. The sector of the economy in Africa will be looked into using Nigeria as a case study. The various types of economy sector will be looked at in form of definition so as to trace the economy sector from pre-colonial era to colonial era. This will enable us know the forms of economy in place during these eras and the major actors in the economy. Conclusion will be based on structural Adjustment Program (SAP) and its effects on African economy.	

[8] Women, Politics and Decision Making: Perspectives from Africa	
Speaker:	Baba Iddrisu Musah
Date:	Wednesday, January 20, 2016 16:00 – 18:00 (c.t)
<u>Content</u> There is no doubt that the contribution of women in consolidating emerging and fragile democracies in Africa is significant. For instance, they have a key role in human and financial mobilization efforts of political parties. However, these contributions have not been given wider focus because of socio-cultural, political and economic barriers or challenges. In this lecture, we will focus on the participation of women in politics and political decision making, with special emphasis on the legislature. This focus is essential because political decisions affect women the greatest because they constitute the majority on the local level. This is equally significant as a result of calls over the years, both at the international and national levels, for the inclusion of women in decision making, outlining that their potentials should be tapped for purposes of national development. Their potentials have not been adequately tapped as a result of exclusion. Additionally, we will discuss the challenges that women in Africa are confronted with when they attempt to engage in political processes.	