Seminar: How to do What We do When We do It? On Methods in Human Rights Research

Venue: Professorboligen, The Faculty of Law, Karl Johans gate 47
Time: April 4th, 09:15-12:00

Theme of the seminar

International human rights inform public discourses, legal developments, social movement action and international relationships in significant ways. All these spaces for human rights in practice, require good knowledge about the material substance, operation and functioning of human rights as moral and legal norms. Human rights research constructs knowledge about the uses, and the justification, emergence and legitimacy of human rights. The quality and robustness of this knowledge relies on the quality of human rights research, and quality depends on methodological rigor and good use of methods. Methodological reflection also requires critical approaches to existing theories, norms and values inherent in research as a process in search of new evidence, insights and research-based facts.


Programme

09:15-09:30 Human rights methodology – an overview
   Bård A. Andreassen

09:30-10:15 Core principles in argumentation and understanding: Hermeneutics and Human Rights
   Hilde Bondevik and Inga Bostad
   Comments: Jacob Elster

10:15-11:00 How to study human rights in plural legal contexts: An exploration of plural water laws in Zimbabwe
   Anne Hellum
   Comments: Stener Ekern

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-11:45 Interdisciplinary and multimethod research
   Malcolm Langford
   Comments: Gentian Zyberi

11:45-12:00 Final discussion