

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.

*This seminar will discuss methodological issues in scholarly research on human rights. It takes its point of departure in an international book project that has produced a volume on human rights methods – *Research Methods in Human Rights A Handbook* to be published in *Ed Elgars' Handbook of Research Methods in Law* series in May (2017). The book is edited by Bård A. Andreassen, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo, Hans-Otto Sano at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Siobhán McInerney-Lankford at the World Bank.*

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

