

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

April 8, 2016

The State of the Field: Challenges & Opportunities in the Study of Human Rights

Interest in the history of human rights has grown enormously in recent years but so too have the debates and conflicting accounts of the history. This workshop brings together leaders from a variety of disciplinary orientations whose work touches on the areas of human rights and history. The broader purpose of the workshop was to establish an interdisciplinary dialogue to better address the various meta-level problems, methodological obstacles, and intellectual roadblocks that have emerged within this relatively new subfield. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to work together to identify and propose the newest and most promising directions forward.

Facilitated by [Christopher Roberts](#), Associate Professor, Joseph & Edith Wargo Research Scholar, Vance Opperman Research Scholar

- 9:00 Welcome & Introductory Remarks
Dean [David Wippman](#)
[Fionnuala Ni Aolain](#), Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society and Faculty Director, Human Rights Center
- 9:15 Session 1 Realizing Human Rights
Rights Make Might: Global Human Rights and Minority Activism in Japan
[Kiyoteru Tsutsui](#), University of Michigan, Department of Sociology
- Toward Nuanced Studies of Principled Human Rights Agents: The Constitutionalization of Treaty Norms and Cause Lawyers in Ecuador
[Steve Meili](#), University of Minnesota Law School
- 10:45 Session 2 Remembering History
Collective Memory and Human Rights
[Joachim Savelsberg](#), University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology
- 11:30 Structured-Roundtable Discussion
Taking Stock Thus Far
- 1:00 Session 3 Duties & Rights
Human Rights and Human Duties? Individual Responsibilities in International Human Rights Law and Global Constitutions
[Kathryn Sikkink](#), Harvard Kennedy School of Government
- Lost Duties: Searching for the Other Half of Our Rights
Christopher Roberts
- 2:30 Session 4 Questioning Categories
Civil and Political Rights v. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights - How Should They Interact?
[Julian Ku](#), Hofstra University, Maurice A. Deane School of Law
- How Should we Categorize Human Rights?
[Zachary Elkins](#), University of Texas at Austin Department of Government
- 4:00 Structured-Roundtable Discussion
Wrap-Up and Directions Forward