



Public Program

Beyond the individual: the notion of group in human rights research

Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th April 2013
Rovaniemi (Finland)

Finnish Doctoral Programme in Human Rights Research

**Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law
(Arctic Centre – University of Lapland)**



Public sessions

The following keynote lectures will be open to the public, in particular staff and students of the university of Lapland. More information can be found on the webpage of the workshop: www.arcticcentre.org/collectiverights

Wednesday 10th April

14:00-15:45 Plenary Session 1: The Collective Dimensions in Human Rights

AK - Polarium

Chair: Prof. Timo Koivurova

Lecturers: ***Beyond the Individual: a Particular Reaching for the Universal***, Dr. Jarna Petman, University of Helsinki

Seeking to offer a critical, albeit sympathetic, reflection on the reasons for and possibilities of group rights, Dr. Jarna Petman shall first examine the dark implications of the assumptions that inhere in human rights law, and then turn to analyze the universalist promise of rights - that is the universalist promise of inclusion.

Beyond the Dichotomy - What Are Collective/Individual Rights Anyway? Prof. Elina Pirjatanniemi

Thursday 11th April

09:00-9:45 Plenary Session 2: *Rapidly evolving international status of indigenous peoples: free, prior and informed consent*, Dr. Leena Heinämäki, University of Lapland *AK – Auditorium*

Starting from 1970's, indigenous peoples' international status and rights have been developed from general human rights, through positive discrimination as minorities towards the recognition of indigenous peoples as collectives - peoples in international human rights law. The international acceptance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 can convincingly be regarded as one of the milestones for a change of the international legal status of indigenous peoples from objects to "semi-subjects", with the right of self-determination and related principles such as a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples. This lecture discusses what FPIC of indigenous peoples mean and how it relates to their collective human rights.

13:00-13:45 Plenary Session 3 - The political representation of national minorities in Europe

Dr. Andreea Carstocea, European Centre for Minority Issues
AK – Auditorium

The lecture will be structured along two main lines of inquiry. The first part of the lecture will be concerned with the representation of national minorities from an identity

perspective. As such, the lecture will focus on *who* should represent and mediate the participation of these groups to public life. The second part of the lecture will depart from the focus on *who* represents minorities and will concentrate on *how* the political participation of minorities takes place in democratic contexts. The lecture will therefore outline some of the most important institutional arrangements that allow for the participation of national minorities to public life, concentrating on various electoral designs and their impact on minority participation, the role of ethnic parties, ethnic outbidding and its risks for democracy, etc.

Friday 12th April

10:00-12:00 Plenary Session 4: Rountable - A Sami perspective on Collective Rights
AK – Auditorium

Chair: Leena Heinämäki, University of Lapland

Presenters: ***Recognition of collective Sámi property rights in the reports of the Finnmark Commission***, Prof. Øyvind Ravna, University of Tromsø

The Alta Case and the Sámi struggle for rights to “land and waters” put political pressure on the Norwegian Government to more broadly explore such rights of the indigenous Sámi. By ratifying the ILO Convention no. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries in 1990, Norway undertook an obligation to identify and recognize traditional Sámi lands. The 2005 Finnmark Act are results of that commitment, which authorized The Finnmark Commission to investigate land rights held by Sámi and other people in Finnmark.

In March 2012 and February 2013 respectively, the Commission submitted its two first reports, which is the first specific legal clarification of a particular area after 30 years examination of Sámi rights. The report is therefore met with high expectations.

This presentation analyses the main findings of the Commission with a particular focus on the recognition of collective Sámi property rights. The presentation concludes with reflections as to whether the investigation fulfils Norway’s obligation to identify and recognise the lands of the Sámi under international law.

The Adoption of Sámi Customs into the Swedish Legal Framework - Some Aspects on Collective and Individual Rights, Johan Strömberg, Uppsala University & Samisk Högskola

Respondents: Anne Nuorgam, University of Lapland
Antti Aikio, University of Lapland