



LAW & DEV

FLEMISH INTERUNIVERSITY RESEARCH NETWORK
ON LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

Kindly invite you to the Annual Research Day

on the theme of

Development, Law and Human Rights: Theoretical and empirical approaches

Wednesday 10 December 2014 (13:45-18:00) ¹

Venue: Small Aula (room 00.15), Faculty of Theology,

Maria Theresia College, Leuven

¹ Participation is free of charge, but we kindly ask you to register before 5 December with sonja.wellens@law.kuleuven.be. Please mention your full name and institutional affiliation.

Programme

13:45 Welcome of participants
Prof. Wouter Vandenhole, University of Antwerp
Julie Feremans, Amnesty International Students Leuven

14:00 **Session I: Keynote Lecture**
Chair: Prof. Koen Lemmens (LIHRICS, KU Leuven)

Development, Law and Human Rights: A Political Economy Approach
Prof. Bas de Gaay Fortman, University of Utrecht

Abstract: After a short introduction on conceptualizations of development, this public lecture will examine the meaning and possible implications of law in a developmental context. Issues that will come to the fore are: the legal legacy of colonialism, universalist vs. particularist approaches (including the impact of customary law), 'law for development'?, development and equity (with a focus on land reform). The second part of the lecture looks particularly at the impact of human rights. After a brief glance at international human rights in the context of the Universal Declaration (December 10th: Human Rights Day), the focus will shift to the global human rights deficit with particular emphasis on its significance in respect of law and development. The 'Right to Development' will be critically discussed, while the lecture will be concluded in defense of 'upstream human rights'. Notably, methodological observations will be amply illustrated with practical examples.

Biographical information: Bas de Gaay Fortman holds the Honorary Chair in Political Economy of Human Rights at Utrecht University, The Netherlands (since 2000). He holds an LLM degree (Magister Iuris, cum laude) as well as an MSc in Economics (Doctorandus in Economics, cum laude), both from the Free University (Amsterdam). He taught first at the Free University, Amsterdam (1960-1967), and at the University of Zambia in Lusaka (from 1967-1971) where he was also Acting Head of the Department of Economics. From 1972 to 2002 he held the Chair in Political Economy of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague. Among his Visiting Professorships is the Mgr Willy Onclin Chair at KU Leuven (2002/2003). From 1971 to 1991 he was also a member of the Netherlands Parliament, first in the lower house as leader of a party represented in government, and then as a senator. Professor Fortman is a senior member of the Netherlands School of Human Rights Research. His research focusses on the political economy of development and security and the political economy of jurisprudence. His book *Political Economy of Human Rights: Rights, Realities and Realization*, London/NY: Routledge, 2011, received a large degree of attention in the human rights community.

14:45 Discussion

15:30 Health break

16:00 **Session II: Methodological approaches to law and development research**
Chairs: Prof. Stephan Parmentier (LINC, KU Leuven) and Prof. Stefaan Smis (VU Brussels)

Introductions and responses:

- *Monica Aciru (KU Leuven)*
- *Dr. Ellen Desmet (Ghent University / University of Antwerp)*
- *Dr. Tine Destrooper (University of Antwerp)*
- *Kristof Gombeer (VU Brussels)*
- *Jules Mastaki Safari (VU Brussels)*
- *Huma Saeed (KU Leuven)*

Questions and answers

17:45 **Final remarks**
Prof. Koen De Feyter, University of Antwerp

18:00 **Close**

Practical aspects

The conference is held on the premises of the University of Leuven, in particular in the Small Aula (room 00.15) of the Faculty of Theology, situated in the Maria Theresia College, Sint Michielsstraat 4, Leuven. The main entrance can be found right off the Hogeschoolplein in the historical centre of Leuven: www.leuven.be.

Participants coming by public transport can take buses to the city centre and get off at the Pieter De Somerplein (close to the town hall), and walk ten minutes to the conference venue. Participants coming by car can use the underground parking space on Ladeuzeplein (close to the central university library) and walk ten minutes to the conference venue.

Organisation

The Interuniversity Network on Law and Development (LAW&DEV) unites researchers at the law faculties of all five Flemish universities engaged in research and education on the interaction between law and development, both within domestic societies and within the international community. More information on: www.lawanddev.ugent.be.

The 2014 edition of the Annual Research Day is a joint organization of

- (a) the Leuven Institute of Human Rights and Critical Studies (LIHRICS – www.law.kuleuven.be/humanrights - koen.lemmens@law.kuleuven.be),
- (b) the Leuven Institute of Criminology (Research Line on Human Rights and Transitional Justice) (LINC - www.law.kuleuven.be/linc – stephan.parmentier@law.kuleuven.be),
and
- (c) Amnesty International Students Leuven (julie@aisleuven.be).

The next edition of the Intensive Training Programme on Human Rights for Development is organized at the KU Leuven between 17 August and 11 September 2015 (www.hr4dev.be).