

HISTORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A workshop and summer school at the Department of Law, University of
Palermo, Italy

18th-22nd June 2018

Directors: Annabel Brett, Beatrice Pasciuta and Isabel Trujillo

CALL FOR PAPERS

The past twenty-five years have witnessed an extraordinary efflorescence of interest in the idea of human rights: in law, in philosophy, in politics. One of the most notable features of the discussion, at least more recently, has been the turn to history as a means of understanding the concept. Not surprisingly, however, the relationship between concept and history has proved neither unidirectional nor unidimensional. What kind of history we tell depends on what we think of human rights; what we think of human rights depends on how we read history. The stories into which we insert, and through which we present and justify, our visions of human rights are irreducibly plural and contested.

To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the doctoral programme in Human rights at the Department of Law of the University of Palermo, 'Histories of human rights' adds to the annual summer school associated with the programme a workshop designed to reflect on the complex pasts of human rights and their implications for the present. We invite twelve younger scholars to present their work to an audience consisting of established international scholars in the field as well as participants in the summer school (currently PhD students and 12 extra participants) and members of the University of Palermo with interests in law, philosophy and history. Confirmed keynote speakers opening the workshop will be Martti Koskenniemi and Samuel Moyn, and each subsequent day will feature a themed presentation from a senior scholar together with three presentations from more junior researchers. Senior scholars: Lena Halldenius (Lund), Fiona MacMillan (London), Otto Pfersmann (Paris), Jesus Velasco (New York). Francesco Viola's intervention on "The Last 25 Years of Human Rights" will close the week.

To apply to present a paper, you will need to send a proposal, your CV and a sample (up to 15000 words) of your research to andrea.fattorini@unipa.it by 31st of March 2018. Applications are restricted to advanced doctoral students and early-career scholars who have obtained their doctorate not more than five years previously. We welcome proposals from all periods of history and from diverse perspectives, for example: empire and the colonial past, gender, economics, past and modern legal thought. Applicants may be members of Law, History, Politics or Philosophy departments. The working languages of the workshop will be Italian, Spanish, French and English, and you will be required to send an abstract to the organisers by the 30th of November 2017, followed by the full draft of your paper for circulation (password-protected) to other participants in the workshop and summer school by 31st May 2018. The selection process will be completed by the 30th of April.

The twelve successful applicants for the workshop will each receive a bursary covering their accommodation and subsistence allowance in Palermo. We regret that we are unable to cover travel costs.

'Histories of human rights' promises to be an exceptionally fruitful and exciting occasion, and we look forward to welcoming an outstanding panel of participants to the event.