

# **Human Rights and the New Global Order: An Interdisciplinary Conference**

**Harvard University, May 8 – May 10, 2008**

*Sponsored by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics; the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government; the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy; the University Committee on Human Rights Studies; the Harvard Kennedy School; and the Harvard University Provost's Office*

Conference Organizer: Mathias Risse, John F. Kennedy School of Government

The goal of the conference is to bring together researchers from different disciplines (social sciences, philosophy, and law) who explore either the foundations of human rights or their role in and impact on international politics.

*This event is free and open to the public. All talks will be in L140 (Littauer Building, first floor) at the Kennedy School*

*Papers available in advance are linked under speakers' names.*

**Thursday, May 8**

**9.15 am Introduction; and First Session: Human Rights – the Philosophical Work Still Undone**

**Chair:** Tim Scanlon, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University

**Speaker:** James Griffin, Department of Philosophy, University of Oxford  
["Human Rights: The Philosophical Work Still Undone"](#)

**Commentator:** Rainer Forst, Departments of Political Science and Philosophy, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

**11 am Break**

**11.15 am Second Session: Toward a Revival of Consequentialist Human Rights Theory**

**Chair:** Michael Rosen, Department of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** William Talbot, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle  
["Toward a Revival of Consequentialist Human Rights Theory"](#)

**Commentator:** Daniel Markovits, Yale Law School, Yale University, New Haven

**12.45 pm Lunch Break; Lunch for panelists and invited guests at Henrietta's Table**

**2 pm Third Session: Human Rights as a Political Practice**

**Chair:** Erin Kelly, Department of Philosophy, Tufts University

**Speaker:** Charles Beitz, Department of Politics, Princeton University

**Commentator:** Michael Doyle, Law School, School of International and Public Affairs, and Department of Political Science, Columbia University

**3.30 pm Break**

**3.45 pm Fourth Session: Human Rights as Membership Rights in the Global Order**

**Chair:** Arthur Applbaum, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Mathias Risse, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
["Human Rights as Membership Rights in the Global Order"](#)

**Commentator:** Simon Caney, Department Politics, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

**5.15 pm End of Program**

**6.30 pm Reception and Dinner for Panelists and Invited Guests at the Sheraton Commander (Mt. Vernon Ballroom)**

*Friday, May 9*

**9.30 am First Session: International Law and Human Rights**

**Chair:** Chris Stone, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Beth Simmons, Department of Government, Harvard University

**Commentator:** Jonathan Wolff, Department of Philosophy, University College London, London, UK

**11 am Break**

**11.15 am Second Session: Can the Human Rights Movement Achieve its Goals?  
Contrasting Visions**

**Chair:** Nancy Rosenblum, Department of Government, Harvard University

**Speakers:** Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University; James Ron, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

[“Can the Human Rights Movement Achieve Its Goals?”](#)

**Commentator:** Stephen Walt, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**12.45 pm Lunch Break; Lunch for panelists and invited guests at Henrietta’s Table**

**2 pm Third Session: Justice on the Ground? International Criminal Courts and Domestic Empowerment**

**Chair:** Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard Law School and Kennedy School, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Jane Stromseth, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

**Commentator:** Lukas Meyer, Department of Philosophy, University of Berne, Switzerland

**3.30 pm Break**

**3.45 Fourth Session: The Role of Consequences, Comparison, and Counterfactuals in Thinking Ethically and Politically about Human Rights Trials**

**Chair:** John Ruggie, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Kathryn Sikkink, Department of Political Science and Law School, University of Minnesota

**Commentator:** Richard Miller, Department of Philosophy, Cornell University

**5.15 End of Program**

**7 Reception and Dinner for Panelists and Invited Guests at the Harvard Faculty Club (Library)**

*Saturday, May 10*

**9.30 am First Session: Why Nations, Not International Society, are the Proper Guardians of Human Rights**

**Chair:** Jane Mansbridge, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Jeremy Rabkin, School of Law, George Mason University

**Commentator:** Philippe van Parijs, Chaire Hoover, Université Catholique de Louvain and Department of Philosophy, Harvard University

**11am: Break**

**11.15 am Second Session: Human Well-Being, Not Human Rights**

**Chair:** Rachel Brewster, Harvard Law School

**Speaker:** Eric Posner, Law School, University of Chicago, Chicago  
[“Human Welfare, Not Human Rights”](#)

**Commentator:** John Tasioulas, Department of Philosophy, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

**12.45 pm Lunch Break; Lunch boxes provided for panelists and invited guests**

**1.45 pm Third Session: Can Human Rights be Localized? Unpacking the Vernacularization Process.**

**Chair:** Stephen Marks, Harvard School of Public Health

**Speaker:** Sally Engle Merry, Department of Anthropology, New York University  
[“Making Human Rights in the Vernacular”](#)

**Commentator:** Samantha Besson, Law School, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

**3.15 pm Break**

**3.30 pm Fourth Session: Paradoxes in Humanitarian Intervention**

**Chair:** Eric Beerbohm, Department of Government, Harvard University

**Speaker:** Martha Finnemore, Department of Political Science and International Affairs,  
George Washington University, Washington, DC

**Commentator:** Ryan Goodman, Harvard Law School

**5 pm End of Conference**

**7.30 pm Dinner for Panelists and Invited Guests at Z Square**