

International Politics of Human Rights

PS 191B-3 Spring 2017

Andrea Vilán

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Location and Time:

Tuesdays 2-4:50 pm

Bunche 2121

Office hours: Thursdays 2-5 pm and by appointment, Bunche 3288. Please register [here](#).

Course Description

This seminar introduces students to the study of human rights from the perspective of political science. It explores how politics affects human rights law at home and abroad. The course begins with an examination of how politics affects the very definition of what constitutes a ‘human right’. Why are human rights thought to be universal? Are they all equally important to protect? The seminar will then explore why state actors violate human rights and at the same time create international treaties to stop these violations. Students will explore the difficulties of trying to establish whether a treaty violation has happened (or not), and how international courts have been used to enforce the guarantees enshrined in human rights law. Lastly, the seminar will examine the practical challenges that governments face on the ground to implement human rights treaties. Students will learn about how domestic groups work to oppose or delay implementation, and what activists in the US and abroad can do to stop them.

Requirements

Active participation is required in the seminar. Students are expected to read the assigned articles before each meeting and to think about the discussion questions that will be circulated in advance. All required readings will be made available on the course website.

This seminar will also develop writing and presentation skills. Students will work throughout the quarter towards the completion of a final paper that incorporates the readings and applies them to a specific human rights issue in a country.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- Understand how politics affects definitions of human rights.
- Understand why states sign, ratify, and comply with international human rights treaties.
- Identify barriers to implementation of human rights, and the role activists play in this process.
- Learn how to critically evaluate an author's assumptions, evidence and conclusions.
- Know where to find evidence –both quantitative and qualitative– to evaluate human rights practices and policies around the world.
- Develop writing and presentation skills.

Assessment

- **Attendance and participation:** 25 %
- **Discussion Leader:** 10 %
 - Each student will serve as the discussion leader for one of our seminar meetings. The discussion leader will lead the discussion and cover the main topics in the readings, including: theoretical points, methodological contributions and shortcomings, implications for the world, and unanswered questions or points for further debate. The discussion leader should put together a 1-page handout for the rest of the class.
- **Country Report:** 10 %
 - Choose a country and write a brief report on the main human rights problems it faces. Identify the types of human rights issues the country faces, the relevant political debates and theories, what international treaty protects those rights, and the political pressures. Four double-spaced pages. This report should not be longer than 4 double-spaced pages, written in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. It can include graphs and other data you find. Please sign up for countries on the course website and bring a printed copy by the end of week 3.

- Useful website to start your inquiry: “How the world violates human rights, country by country”: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/11381744/How-the-world-violates-human-rights-country-by-country.html> (*The Telegraph*, 2 February 2015, data by [Human Rights Watch](#))
- **Paper Draft:** 5 %
 - At the end of week 8 you will provide two copies of your paper draft: one for the instructor and one for a peer that will provide feedback in the next seminar meeting.
- **Peer Review:** 5 %
 - Students will be asked to review another student’s draft and provide constructive feedback. Due in our meeting of week 9.
- **Final Paper:** 40 %
 - Write a 13-15 page paper on a single human rights issue and how it is affecting one particular country. You should discuss issues such as what right is being violated, which convention protects it, what are some of the methodological challenges to monitor compliance and practical barriers to implementation. It can be the same country you looked at in the country report or not. The paper is due on June 14th at 5pm.
- **Presentation:** 5 %
 - In week 10 you will be asked to give a 5-minute presentation on your findings to during the seminar.

Student Resources

Social Science Undergraduate Writing Center The Undergraduate Writing Center now offers one-on-one writing tutoring for all undergraduates enrolled in social science classes. The sessions are given by undergraduate Peer Learning Facilitators (PLFs) who are social science majors. It is located in the Powell Library InqSpace and is open 5 days a week. You can make an appointment online at www.wp.ucla.edu/uwc

Study-Group Space If you are looking for space to study, either on your own or with a group, please know that you can reserve the study group spaces at YRL by making a reservation here: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/reservations/yrl>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) You can speak to a therapist or counselor through CAPS services: <http://www.counseling.ucla.edu>

Academic Integrity

All UCLA students are bound by the UCLA's Student Conduct Code, which is available at www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu. As required by UCLA procedures, any suspected or alleged misconduct –including plagiarism and cheating–will be automatically reported to the Dean of Students. If you are not sure whether what you are doing is correct, please talk to me or contact the Undergraduate Writing Center for help. You can also use this citation guide from the UCLA library: <http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/intro>.

Schedule

Week 1: Conceptualizing Human Rights

Discussion questions: *What rights are considered 'human rights'? What are their philosophical origins and how have they evolved over time? How can we reconcile the claim of universal rights in a culturally diverse world? How do the rights of the individual clash with those of collective society?*

Required readings:

1. United Nations. "What are human rights?". Accessible here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx> (last accessed March 21, 2017).
2. Donnelly, Jack. 2013. "A Brief History of Human Rights", in *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Third Edition. Pages 75-92 (Chapter 5).
3. Simmons, Beth A. 2009. "Why International Law? The Development of the International Human Rights Regime in the Twentieth Century", in *Mobilizing for Human Rights*, pages 36 – 55, (Chapter 2).
4. Zakaria, Fareed and Lee Kuan Yew. 1994. "Culture is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew". *Foreign Affairs* 73(2): 109-126.
5. Şahin vs. Turkey. 2005. Decision by the the **European Court of Human Rights**. Accessible here: <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-70956>.

Supplemental material:

- History of human rights:
 - Hunt, Lynn. 2007. *Inventing Human Rights: A History*. W. W. Norton & Co.
 - Whelan, Daniel J. and Jack Donnelly. 2007. “The West, Economic and Social Rights, and the Global Human Rights Regime: Setting the Record Straight”. *Human Rights Quarterly* 29 (4): 908-949.
 - Kirkup, Alex and Tony Evans. 2009. “The Myth of Western Opposition to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? A Reply to Whelan and Donnelly”. *Human Rights Quarterly* 31 (1): 221-237.
 - Moyn, Samuel. 2010. “The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History”. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Universalism vs. cultural relativism:
 - Walker, Scott and Steven C. Poe. 2002. “Does Cultural Diversity Affect Countries’ Respect for Human Rights?” *Human Rights Quarterly* 24 (1): 237-263.
 - Donnelly, Jack. 2013. “The Relative Universality of Human Rights”, in in *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Third Edition. Chapter 6.
 - Engle, Karen. 1999. “Culture and Human Rights: The Asian Values Debate in Context”. *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics* 32: 291-333.
- Cases:
 - Human Rights Committee. 1977. “Sandra Lovelace vs. Canada”. Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/SelDec_1_en.pdf. CCPR/C/13/D/24/1977, pages 83-87.
 - European Court of Human Rights. 2017. Press release for “Achbita” and “Bougnou” cases, accessible here: <http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-03/cp170030en.pdf>.
 - Washington Post. 2017. “E.U. Court Says Employers can Ban Muslim Headscarf in Workplace”. Accessible [here](#). March 14.

Week 2: Why Do Human Rights Violations Occur?

Discussion questions: *Why do states abuse their citizens’ rights? How does sovereignty prevent the international community from protecting individuals in other countries? What*

other types of actors violate human rights? How do firms and families violate human rights?

Required readings:

1. Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2013. "Rationales", in *Making Human Rights a Reality*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 29-43 (Chapter 3).
2. Moore, W. H. and Welch, R. M. 2015. "Why Do Governments Abuse Human Rights?" *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences: An Interdisciplinary, Searchable, and Linkable Resource*. 1–16.
3. Memorandum on Chilean Executions, US Department of State, November 16 (1973). From the [National Security Archive](http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB8/docs/doc10.pdf), accessible here: <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB8/docs/doc10.pdf>
4. Weissbrodt, David. 2013. "Roles and Responsibilities of Non-State Actors", in *The Oxford Handbook of International Human Rights Law*. New York: Oxford University Press, Pages 719-736 (Chapter 30).
5. International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), "The Responsibility to Protect", pp. 12-13, available at <http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf>
6. Brysk, Allison. 1994. "The Politics of Measurement: The Contested Count of the Disappeared in Argentina". *Human Rights Quarterly* 16(4): 676-692.

Supplemental material:

- Trachtenberg, Marc. 2006. "Appendix II: Working with Primary Sources", supplement to *The Craft of International History*, Princeton University Press, available at: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/trachtenberg/methbk/AppendixII.html>
- Poe, Steven C., C. Neal Tate, and Linda Camp Keith. 1999. "Repression of the Human Right to Personal Integrity Revisited: A Global Cross-National Study Covering the Years 1976-1993." *International Studies Quarterly* 43(2): 291-313.
- Deitelhoff, Nicole and Klaus Dieter Wolf (2013) "Business and human rights: how corporate norm violators become norm entrepreneurs", in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*, Thomas Riese, Stephen C. Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink (eds.), Cambridge University Press, pp. 222-238 (Chapter 12).

- Ruggie, John G. 2007. “Business and Human Rights: The Evolving International Agenda”. *The American Journal of International Law* 11 (4): 819-840.
- “InfoGuide: Child Marriage”. 2017. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Accessible [here](#) (last accessed March 23, 2017).
- Satterthwaite, Margaret L. 2016. “Coding Personal Integrity Rights: Assessing Standards-Based Measures Against Human Rights Law and Practice”, *NYU Journal of International Law & Politics*, 513–579.
- Moore, Will H. (2016) “How Do We Count Victims of Torture?” The Rights Track Podcast.
- [A New Generation of Human Rights Investigators Turns to High-Tech Methods](#), PBS Newshour, February 13, 2017.
 - For a description of this project, see: [Citizen Evidence Lab](#) and [Syrian Archive](#).

Week 3: Commitment to International Law

Note: Country report due at the start of our meeting.

Discussion questions: *Why do states sign international treaties? When and how do states ratify international treaties?*

Required readings:

1. Simmons, Beth A. 2009. “Theories of Commitment”, from *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*, Chapter 3.
2. Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. “The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe”. *International Organization* 54(2): 217–252.
3. Hathaway, Oona A. 2007. “Why Do Countries Commit to Human Rights Treaties?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51 (4): 588-621.
4. Lupu, Yonatan. 2016. “Why Do States Join Some Universal Treaties but Not Others? An Analysis of Treaty Commitment Preferences”. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(7): 1219-1250.
5. Blanchfield, Luisa. 2013. “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child”, *Congressional Research Service*, pages 5–7.

Supplemental material:

- Hathaway, Oona A. 2003. “The Cost of Commitment” *Stanford Law Review* 55(5): 1821-62.
- Simmons, Beth A. and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2005. “The Constraining Power of International Treaties: Theory and Methods”. *American Political Science Review* 99(4): 623–631.
- Lupu, Yonatan. 2013. “The Informative Power of Treaty Commitment: Using the Spatial Model to Address Selection Effects”, *American Journal of Political Science*. 57(4): 912-925.
- Lauria, Joe. 2014. “Why Won’t the US Ratify the UN’s Children’s Rights Convention?”, *The Huffington Post*, November 25, available at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joe-lauria/why-wont-the-us-ratify-th_b_6195594.html (last accessed February 9, 2017).
- On insincere commitments:
 - Vreeland, James. 2008. “Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture”. *International Organization* 62(1): 65–101.
 - Hollyer, James R., and B. Peter Rosendorff. 2011. “Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Sign the Convention Against Torture? Signaling, Domestic Politics and Non-Compliance”. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 6(3–4): 275–327.
 - Smith-Cannoy, Heather. 2012. “Causes of Commitment”, in *Insincere Commitments: Human Rights Treaties, Abusive States, and Citizen Activism*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 64-91 (Chapter 3).

Week 4: Compliance with Human Rights Treaties

Discussion questions: *Do states comply with their treaty commitments? How do we know if states comply? What are the methodological challenges faced when trying to monitor compliance?*

Required readings:

1. Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. “On Compliance”, *International Organization* 47(2): 175–205.

2. Downs, George W., David M. Roake, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. “**Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?**” *International Organization* 50(3): 379–406.
3. Von Stein, Jana. 2005. “**Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance**”. *American Political Science Review* 99(4): 611–622.
4. Fariss, Christopher J. 2014. “**Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: Modeling the Changing Standard of Accountability**”, *American Political Science Review* 108(2): 297–318.
 - Fariss, Christopher J. 2015. “**Are We Better at Human Rights than We Used to Be?**”, The Rights Track Podcast.

Supplemental material:

- Hathaway, Oona. 2002. “Do Human Rights Treaties Matter?” *The Yale Law Journal*, 111: 1935–2042.
- Dai, Xinyuan. 2005. “Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism”. *International Organization* 59 (Spring): 363–398.
- Raustiala, Kal. 2005. “Form and Substance in International Agreements”. *The American Journal of International Law* 99(3): 581–614.
- Neumayer, Eric. 2005. “Do International Human Rights Treaties Improve Respect for Human Rights?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(6): 925–953.
- Powell, Emilia J. and Jeffrey K. Staton. 2009. “**Domestic Judicial Institutions and Human Rights Treaty Violation**”. *International Studies Quarterly* 53(1): 149–174.
- Simmons, Beth A. 2010. “Treaty Compliance and Violation”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 273–296.
- Martin, Lisa L. 2013. “Against Compliance”, in *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on International Law and International Relations: The State of the Art*, Jeffrey L. Dunoff and Mark A. Pollack (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press: 591-610 (Chapter 24).
- On measuring compliance with human rights treaties:
 - Goodman, Ryan and Derek Jinks. 2003 “Measuring the Effect of Human Rights Treaties.” *European Journal of International Law* 14(1):171–183.
 - Cingranelli, David L. 2004. “The Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) human rights data project”, *Human Rights Quarterly* 32: 395–418.

Week 5: Enforcing Human Rights Treaties

Discussion questions: *How does compliance with human rights treaties differ from compliance in other areas of international law? How have countries used international human rights law to criminally prosecute individuals? How has this experience been shaped by transitions to democracy and out of conflict? How has the International Criminal Court worked to enforce human rights around the world?*

Required readings:

1. Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2005. “Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression”. *International Organization* 59(3): 593–629.
2. Sikkink, Kathryn. 2011. *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions are Changing World Politics*, Introduction, Chapter 5 and 6.
3. Sikkink, Kathryn, and Hun Joon Kim. 2013. “The Justice Cascade: the Origins and Effectiveness of Prosecutions of Human Rights Violations”. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 9: 269–285.
4. Jo, Hyeran and Beth A. Simmons. 2016. “Can the International Criminal Court Deter Atrocity?”, *International Organization* 70 (3): 443-475.
 - You can find a short memo on this work in “Running the numbers on ICC deterrence: when does it actually work?”, Open Democracy.

Supplemental material:

- Schabas, William A. 2008. “Prosecutorial Discretion vs. Judicial Activism at the International Criminal Court”. *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 6(4): 731–761.
- Hillebrecht, Courtney and Scott Straus. 2017. “Who Prosecutes the Perpetrators? State Cooperation with ICC Indictments”, *Human Rights Quarterly* 39(1): 162-188.
 - Hillebrecht, Courtney and Scott Straus. 2016. “Last Week, the International Criminal Court convicted a war criminal. And that revealed one of the ICC’s weaknesses.” *The Washington Post*. March 28.
- Talking Justice (from the Open Society Foundation). Available here: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/podcast/trial-laurent-gbagbo>

- Vinjamuri, Leslie and Jack Snyder. 2015. “Law and Politics in Transitional Justice”, *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 303-327.

Week 6: Regional Approaches to Human Rights

Discussion questions: *How does the European Court of Human Rights encourage compliance with its rulings? How do other courts in the world, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, enforce its rulings? What advantages (if any) do permanent courts have over transitional justice tribunals? What are some of the challenges they face?*

Required readings:

1. Hawkins, Darren, and Wade Jacoby. 2010 “Partial Compliance: A Comparison of the European and inter-American Courts of Human Rights.” *Journal of International Law and International Relations* 6(1): 35–85.
2. Hillebrecht, Courtney. 2014. “Domestic Politics and International Human Rights Tribunals: The Problem of Compliance”. New York: Cambridge University Press, pages 4-13 and 19-65.
3. Helfer, Laurence R., and Erik Voeten. 2014. “International Courts as Agents of Legal Change: Evidence from LGBT rights in Europe.” *International Organization* 68(1): 77–110.
4. Alter, Karen J. 2014. “The New International Courts”, in *The New Terrain of International Law: Courts, Politics, Rights*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pages 68-111 (Chapter 3).

Supplemental material:

- Koh, Harold H. 1999. “How Is International Human Rights Law Enforced?”, *Indiana Law Journal*, 74(4): 1397–1417.
- Hillebrecht, Courtney. 2012. “Implementing International Human Rights Law at Home: Domestic Politics and the European Court of Human Rights.” *Human Rights Review* 13(3): 279–301.
- Hillebrecht, Courtney. 2012. “The Domestic Mechanisms of Compliance With International Human Rights Law: Case studies from the Inter-American Human Rights System.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 34(4): 959–985.

- Hillebrecht, Courtney. 2014. “The Power of Human Rights Tribunals: Compliance and Domestic Policy Change.” *European Journal of International Relations*, 20 (4): 1100–1123.

Week 7: Human Rights Activism

Note: Today we will screen “The Uncondemned” in the second half of our meeting. This documentary tells the story of a group of young international lawyers and activists who fought to have rape recognized as a war crime and the Rwandan women who came forward to testify. You can watch the trailer [here](#) and read a review [here](#).

Discussion questions: *How do activists help protect human rights in the United States? How can activism help improve human rights protection around the world? What limitations do NGOs face when working to improve protections for human rights? Do you expect NGOs to be more effective in certain parts of the world, or in certain issues, than in other places? Where do NGOs get their funding from, and how does this affect their priorities or the type of activities they focus on?*

Required readings:

1. Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1-38 and 79-120.
2. Risse, Thomas and Kathryn Sikkink. 1999. “The Socialization of International Human Rights Norms into Domestic Practices: Introduction”, in *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 1-38.
3. Murdie, Amanda M. and David R. Davis. 2012. “[Shaming and Blaming: Using events Data to Assess the Impact of Human Rights INGOs](#)”. *International Studies Quarterly* 56 (1): 1–16.
4. Hefner-Burton, Emilie M., Brad L. LeVeck and David G. Victor. 2015. “[How Activists Perceive the Utility of International Law](#)”. *Journal of Politics* 78(1): 167–180.

Supplemental material:

- Risse, Thomas and Stephen C. Ropp. 2013. “Introduction and Overview”, in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-22.

- Hertel, Shareen. 2006. *Unexpected Power: Conflict and Change Among Transnational Activists*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 31-54 (Chapter 3).
- Wong, Wendy. 2012. *Internal Affairs: How the Structure of NGOs Transforms Human Rights*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Fagan, Patrick. 2001. “How U.N. Conventions on Women’s and Children’s Rights Undermine Family, Religion, and Sovereignty”. *The Heritage Foundation Backgrounder* 1407.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2013. “Nongovernmental Organizations”, in *Making Human Rights a Reality*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 151-163 (Chapter 9).
- Simmons, Beth A. “The Future of the Human Rights Movement”. *Ethics & International Affairs* 28(2): 183–196.
- Naming and shaming:
 - Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2008. “Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem”. *International Organization* 62: 689–716.
 - Hendrix, Cullen S. and Wendy H. Wong. 2013. “When Is The Pen Truly Mighty? Regime Type and the Efficacy of Naming and Shaming in Curbing Human Rights Abuses”. *British Journal of Political Science* 43(3):651–672.
- On FMG:
 - Kwoka, Margaret. 2007. “Female Genital Surgeries: Rethinking the Role of International Human Rights Law”, *Human Rights Law Commentary* 3, 1–24.
 - Cloward, Karisa. 2016. *When Norms Collide: Local Responses to Activism against Female Genital Mutilation and Early Marriage*. New York: Oxford University Press, pages 53-62.
- Funding to NGOs:
 - Dupuy, Kendra, James Ron and Asseem Prakash (2016) “Hands Off My Regime! Governments’ Restrictions on Foreign Aid to Non-Governmental Organizations in Poor and Middle-Income Countries”, *World Development*, 84: 299-311.
 - Dobson, Christen, Lucía Carrasco Scherer and Emilienne de León. 2013. “The State of Global Human Rights Philanthropy”, Open Democracy.
 - Dupuy, Ron, and Prakash. “Foreign aid to local NGOs: good intentions, bad policy” Open Democracy 2012.

- Podcasts:
 - Murdie, Amanda. 2016. “Do NGOs matter?”. The Rights Track Podcast.
 - Raman, Sushma. 2016. “The Many Challenges Facing Human Rights Organizations”, Harvard Kennedy School PolicyCast, December 21.
- Data:
 - See the website for the [International Budget Partnership](#), collecting information on what governments spend money on.
 - Human Rights Trump Tracker
<http://hrlr.law.columbia.edu/trump-human-rights-tracker/>

Week 8: The Domestic Implementation of Human Rights Treaties

Note: Your paper draft is due at the start of this meeting. Please submit before the deadline through Turnitin.

Discussion questions: *How does capacity affect state’s ability to comply with international treaties? How does domestic politics affect the implementation of agreements? What type of actors are involved in the implementation of treaties? How do national human rights institutions differ in their ability to enforce treaties from other actors, like the judiciary?*

Required readings:

1. Cole, Wade M. 2015. “Mind the Gap: State Capacity and the Implementation of Human Rights Treaties”, *International Organization*, 69(2):405–441.
2. Keith, Linda C. 2002. “Judicial Independence and Human Rights Protection Around the World”. *Judicature* 85(4): 195–200.
3. Sandholtz, Wayne. 2012. “Treaties, Constitutions, Courts, and Human Rights”. *Journal of Human Rights* 11(1): 17-32.
4. Vilán, Andrea. 2017. “The Distributional Consequences of Human Rights Treaties”. Working paper.
5. Welch, Ryan. 2015. “National Human Rights Institutions: Domestic Implementation of International Human Rights Law”. *Journal of Human Rights*. 16 (1): 96–116.

Supplemental material:

- Risse, Thomas and Kathryn Sikkink. 2013. “Conclusions”, in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*, Thomas Riese, Stephen C. Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink (eds.), New York: Cambridge University Press, 285–295.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2013. “National Human Rights Institutions”, in *Making Human Rights a Reality*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 164-175. (Chapter 10).

Week 9: Contemporary Topics: Child Labor and Censorship

Note: Your peer-reviews are due at the beginning of our meeting.

Discussion questions: *How has the Minimum Age Convention help curb child labor around the world? What challenges persist to eliminate child labor? What are the problems of human rights in China and why do they persist?*

Required reading:

1. Von Stein, Jana. 2016. “**Making Promises, Keeping Promises: Democracy, Ratification and Compliance in International Human Rights Law**”, *British Journal of Political Science*, 46 (3): 655–679.
2. Meier, Mathias. 2015. “**In Bolivia, Legitimizing Child Labor**”, *The New York Times*, (video).
3. King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts (2013) “**How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression**”, *American Political Science Review*, 107(2): 326–343.

Supplemental material:

- Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, US Department of Labor, available here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/findings/>
- Kinzelbach, Katrin. 2015. “Resisting the Power of Human Rights: the People’s Republic of China”, in *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance*. Thomas Riese, Stephen C. Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 164-181 (Chapter 9).

Week 10: Presentations & Conclusions

This week you will present the findings of your paper to the rest of the seminar. We will conclude and discuss the challenges ahead for human rights law.

Wednesday June 14 at 5 pm: Final Paper Due

General Resources

Podcasts:

- The Rights Track, <http://www.rightstrack.org/>
- Data and Human Rights section <https://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/data-and-human-rights>
- Talking Justice (from the Open Society Foundations), available at <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/podcast/trial-laurent-gbagbo>.

Data:

- CIRI Human Rights Data Project <http://www.humanrightsdata.com/>
- Political Terror Scale <http://www.politicalterroryscale.org/>
- UCDP's database on one-sided violence (& others relevant for the study of conflict) <http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/>
- Human Rights reports by US State Department <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>
- Transitional Justice Research Collaborative: <https://www.transitionaljusticedata.com/>
- Syrian Archive Violations Database <https://syrianarchive.org/database/>
- Compliance with Human Rights Tribunals Dataset <https://courtneyhillebrecht.com/research/compliance-and-regional-human-rights-courts/chrt-data/>

Last updated: May 7, 2017