

**UCL Institute for Human Rights
*Pentland Symposia Series***



***Prospects for Economic and Social Human Rights Country
Indicators- Symposium***

14 October 2011

Registration and Coffee from 9am, the Symposium will begin at 9:30am

The Symposium will be followed by an informal reception

About the Event:

Can we develop accurate and useful indicators for economic and social human rights? Can we score countries on their economic and social rights achievements? What would be the requisites and aims of an economic and social rights dataset? What kind of international questions would such a dataset inform?

The implementation of human rights standards in different societies implies that we can make judgements about the observance of human rights obligations by states. Such judgements, however, have to be made on the basis of more than the declarations of governments or even their legal commitments. It must be possible both to describe and prescribe institutional and policy measures that constitute clear observance of these obligations. Whilst some significant work has been done to develop civil and political rights indicators, scoring the human rights performance of specific territories, not enough work has been done outlining and defining indicators for economic and social human rights. This symposium brings together leading experts in the field to discuss past and current initiatives and desiderata for an economic and social human rights dataset.

1) Prof. Todd Landman (Essex): Economic and Social Rights Indicators and Problems 9.30-10.15

Coffee Break 10.15-10.30

2) Panel discussion: Current Measures on ES Indicators — Polly Vizard, Todd Landman and David Cingranelli, (Chair: Saladin Meckled-Garcia) 10.30-12:00

Lunch Break 12-13:30

4) Rod Abouharb: Economic rights, child mortality and development indicators; Indra de Soyza : Empirically assessing the societal effectiveness of bilateral aid 13:30-15:00

Coffee 15:00-15:15

5) Prof. David Cingranelli followed by plenary discussion—Prospects for the future of Economic and Social Rights Indicator Sets 15:15-16:30

Reception 16:30 -18:00

Participant's Dinner 18:00 (by invitation only)

Online Registration: <http://economicsocialrightsindicators.eventbrite.com>

About the participants:

Professor David Cingranelli

David Cingranelli is a Professor of Political Science at Binghamton University, State University of New York. He is a former President of the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association. For the past 15 years, he has served as the co-director of the Cingranelli and Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Data Project.

He conducts global, comparative, econometric research examining the causes and consequences of variation in government respect for various types of human rights. His most recent book with Rodwan Abouharb, *Human Rights and Structural Adjustment*, Cambridge University Press, examined the human rights impacts of World Bank and IMF structural adjustment programs in less developed countries. His current book project with Mikhail Filippov titled *Institutions, Incentives and Human Rights* examines how constitutional design and other factors can provide incentives to politicians to enact policies protecting human rights and to monitor the implementation of those policies. He is also conducting comparative, global, cross-national research on human trafficking and labor standards and on the relationship between repression of human rights and domestic political violence. He has been employed as a consultant for Milcord, LLC and the World Bank. David's work has also been funded by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

Professor Todd Landman

Todd is Professor of Government and Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex.

He has published numerous books, articles, and chapters primarily on politics and human rights. He has travelled to over 35 countries working on a variety of training and capacity building projects for national and international public and private organisations. His work is theory-driven empirical analysis on key topics informed by a normative concern for peace, justice, democracy, and rights.

His publications include research monographs, textbooks, peer-reviewed journal articles, review articles, book reviews, working papers, conference papers, reports and 'knowledge products' for the wider policy community. His most popular book is *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics*, which has sold over 10,000 copies and is now in its third edition.

Professor Indra de Soysa

Prof. de Soysa is a Political Scientist with a special interest in political economy. Fields of interest are the issues of development, globalization, the effects of trade openness and foreign investment on poor countries, causes of civil and international conflict, the political economy of natural resource management, and international political economy.

Dr. Polly Vizard

Dr. Vizard is a sociologist who has published in the area of poverty and human rights including an Oxford University Press book, *Poverty and Human Rights*, 2006. She is currently a research fellow at the London School of Economics where she is working on an ESRC funded project developing a human rights dataset for the United Kingdom.

Dr. Rod Abouharb

Dr. Abouharb is a lecturer in international relations at UCL's Department of Political Science. His research examines processes that affect the civility of relations between government and its citizens. In particular he is interested in how economic integration into the international economic system affects the onset of civil war and human rights abuses within countries. His co-edited volume, with David Cingranelli, *Human Rights and Structural Adjustment*, Cambridge University Press, 2007, won the Choice Outstanding Academic Title prize in 2009.

Dr. Saladin Meckled-Garcia

Dr. Meckled-Garcia is a political theorist based in the UCL Department of Political Science, and works in the field of human rights and international ethics. He has published on questions of responsibility for human rights standards and contributed to current debates in human rights theory and global justice theory. He co-edited the volume *The Legalization of human rights: multidisciplinary perspectives*, Routledge, 2006, and is currently working on a book entitled *Just the right thing: pinning down human rights responsibilities in international ethics*. Dr. Meckled-Garcia is also co-founder and co-director of the *UCL Institute for Human Rights*.

Acknowledgements

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