

Call for Proposals

Human Rights in the Balance: Safeguarding Social and Environmental Sustainability

4th HRRC Conference (in person)

Hosted at the Freiburg Institute for
Advanced Studies (FRIAS),
University of Freiburg, Germany

17–18 June 2025

Deadline for Proposals
1 December 2024

Safeguarding human rights is a perennial challenge, rendered more difficult by growing social polarization, widening inequality, new technological developments, and a deepening environmental crisis. Human rights can inform our understanding of these issues, and should shape our path toward action to address them. This idea of a human-rights based approach is central also to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) launched in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030, which are a “universal call to action” to improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.

Acknowledging that human rights are essential to achieving sustainable development, the conference aims to address the following themes:

- The multiple dimensions of sustainable development and human rights: *social, economic, and environmental*
- “*Leaving no one behind*” and how human rights function in an unequal world
- The concepts of *individual and collective human rights*, and their role in paving the way for a sustainable future
- *Emerging technologies* as a source of both benefit and harm for human rights
- Pathways to the *participation* of all nations, all peoples and all segments of society in decision-making towards sustainable development

Submission of Proposals

Conference submissions by HRRC members are welcomed in the form of

- **Individual paper proposals** on topics related to the conference themes
- **Panel proposals** on conference theme(s)

Interested members should submit their proposals to hrrc2025@frias.uni-freiburg.de no later than **1 December 2024**. Proposals for individual papers shall be submitted in the form of an **abstract of no more than 200 words**. Panel proposals shall contain a list of panelists (to include 3 to 4 HRRC members) as well as a suggestion for a panel title, accompanied by a **description of the panel of no more than 150 words and abstracts for each individual panelist of no more than 100 words**.

The organizers and the HRRC Steering Committee will review the submitted proposals. A final selection will be made and communicated **by 1 February 2025**.

Conference participants are invited to consider publication of the papers after the conference in a peer-reviewed symposium or special issue of the [Journal of Human Rights](#) (for papers of around 10.000 words; for details, please contact Shareen Hertel, HRRC Co-Director and editor of the journal at shareen.hertel@uconn.edu) or at [Open Global Rights](#) (for shorter contributions of a maximum of 1.000 words, following the regular editing process).

Registration as Participants

All HRRC members are welcome to attend the conference in person, regardless of whether they are presenting or not. A registration link will be communicated to all HRRC members.

Registration will open by 1 February 2025 and closes by 1 April 2025.

Organization

The conference will be hosted at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg, in Albertstraße 19, 79104 Freiburg (Germany). Travel, on-site meals and three nights of lodging on-site will be covered for those selected to be on the program; for all other HRRC members attending the conference, travel support will be available depending on the number of registrations.

The conference will be organized within the following timeframe:

Monday, 16 June – Travel Day

Tuesday, 17 June – Conference Day 1 (panels, keynote lecture and dinner)

Wednesday, 18 June – Conference Day 2 (panels; working group sessions; plenary meeting)

Thursday, 19 June – Travel Day

A detailed conference program will be circulated in **February 2025**. Up-to-date information on the conference including contact details can always be found on the conference website at <https://hrrc.bwgermany.uconn.edu/hrrc-conference-2025/>.

Hosts

HRRC Co-Directors

Ralf von den Hoff (FRIAS, University of Freiburg), Silja Voeneky (University of Freiburg), Sebastian Wogenstein (University of Connecticut), Shareen Hertel (University of Connecticut)

Event coordinator

Laura Tribess (FRIAS, University of Freiburg)

The Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium (HRRC) provides an international, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional platform to promote and support academic collaboration between researchers and research groups at universities and other research institutions in the State of Connecticut (USA) and the Land Baden-Württemberg (Germany). The Consortium is designed to serve as an incubator for diverse and interdisciplinary human rights research projects, generate critical knowledge on key human rights-related issues, and disseminate its findings.

HRRC Website: <https://hrrc.bwgermany.uconn.edu/>



Contact Details

For questions, please contact us at any time.

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