



2019 Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Rights: Key Moments of the 20th Century and Their Legacy

Co-sponsored by
Anglo-American University and Norwich University

INVITATION FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE

March 7-8, 2019

VENUE: Anglo-American University, Letenská 5, Prague, Czech Republic

CONFERENCE WEB: <https://www.aauni.edu/human-rights-conference-2019/>

Who can participate?

Any college or graduate student with an interest in human rights and the ambition to discuss their research with peers as well as experts. Participants will be selected to apply by professors in selected classes and by designated reviewers.

Why participate?

- Have your first academic publication in proceedings with an ISBN!
- Obtain feedback from top academic experts and interested peers!
- Add an impressive accomplishment to your resume!
- Get a certificate of attendance from the two organizing universities!
- Best papers make it to Official proceedings that might be indexed by prestigious Web of Science.

How to apply?

- A. If your paper is for one of the classes listed in the footnote¹, follow the instructions of the professor and the syllabus.
- B. If your paper is not part of the class, please follow these steps and deadlines:
 - Read [Call for papers](#) with more information about the event.
 - Send an abstract of no more than 150 words before October 31, 2018;
 - Send the full paper before January 10, 2019;
 - Send the paper with any required revisions before February 15, 2019;
 - Pay the discounted fee of 30 EUR/750 CZK according to instructions on the conference webpage.
 - Attend the conference on March 7-8, 2019, in Prague, Czech Republic. A remote connection might be possible if necessary.

What kind of research questions are accepted?

We accept research from any established academic discipline on issues described in the [Call for papers](#). On following pages we list some sample questions to address, but it is by no means a comprehensive list.

¹ Confirmed classes of professors: Carrollann Braum (AAU), Zuzana Fellegi (AAU), Rowland Brucken (NU) and Michael McGinnis (NU).

History

- What are past examples in Central Europe of successful and failed strategies to fight back against authoritarian and totalitarian political systems, and what lessons can we learn and apply today?
- How did communist governments define the concept of human rights differently than Western governments during the Cold War?
- According to historical case studies from Central Europe, how are human rights best protected at the supra-national, national, and sub-national levels by both governments and civil society?

Linguistics and the Humanities

- How did Central European governments use language to promote authoritarianism or totalitarianism?
- In what ways has artistic expression been used to challenge communist or post-communist governmental restrictions and protest human rights violations?

Minority discrimination in past and present times

- Which groups have been historically discriminated in Central Europe and what were the causes of their discrimination?
- Has their discrimination decreased after the fall of socialism or has there merely been a change of discrimination patterns?
- Is Central Europe over all more racist and discriminatory towards minorities than other states in Europe? Is this a part of the legacy of their past?

Gender equality and status of women

- Gender equality and a full employment were main mottos of past socialist systems in Central Europe, but in what ways did women actually achieve equality in this region?
- Have there been more recently signs of progress, from formal legally codified equality towards a full de facto equality, including equal pay and equal representation in political and business environment?
- While Western states have increasingly employ positive actions to empower women, the Central Europe seems to be very skeptical towards such measures. What are the causes of such attitudes and how can they be challenged?

Role of students in historical movements

- What role have students and young people played in the moments of main historical changes in the Central European region? How did they react to major human rights violations in past and what is their activism like in presence?
- What factors influenced their level of their engagement, and how much has globalization affected the degree and means of their public interventions?
- How will social media impact the organizational strategies and human rights attitudes of Millennials and Post-Millennials?

Role of the media in Central Europe

- What was the role of communist-era media and anti-establishment media in Central Europe?
- What can the communicational strategy waged by students and dissidents in 1989 Czechoslovakia teach protesters about communicating their message to society today?

- What is the relationship between the media and governments and political parties in Central Europe today?

Regional cooperation

- Is regional cooperation in Central Europe as strong as it used to be during the socialism? Are there more signs of regionalism today as compared with past?
- Does the current cooperation of the Visegrad states play in favor of strengthening democratic order in the region?
- How are Central European governments influenced by non-governmental actors, and in what ways is there any cooperation between NGOs in the region?
- How are Central European governments influenced by external organizations such as the EU? Is the level of the EU influence comparable with the influence of the former Comecon? How is the inter-state cooperation and cooperation with governmental organisations and NGOs influencing the state of human rights in the region?

Politics

- What lessons can 1989 teach us about mass protest and unarmed civil resistance today in countries such as Romania, Hungary, and the Czech Republic?
- Are protesters' human rights more likely to be violated during dissent today in comparison to 1989?
- Has social media changed repression-protest dynamics by making it more costlier for security forces and police to repress dissent?