

Business Ethics and Human Rights, from Theory to **Practice**

Tuesday 10th September 2019
Regency Suite 02 / T114
9:00 – 16:00

Research Workshop
Chaired by Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal
Regent's University London



In the context of the on-going consultation around the proposed UN Treaty for transnational business and human rights, the debate has recently focused on hard v. soft law, or mandatory v. voluntary initiatives. This workshop will address the question of **what works**, in practice, to increase corporate accountability and support for human rights.

Key topics –

- The proposed UN Treaty on Transnational Business and Human Rights
- UNGP implementation through National Action Plans and other initiatives;
- Collaboration between state and business agents on human rights issues;
- Voluntary initiatives to help businesses increase their support for human rights;
- Victims' access to justice;
- Company human rights due diligence;
- Recent developments in whistleblowing policy, and implications for human rights;
- The role of the state in company disclosures on social responsibility and human rights.

Confirmed speakers –

- **Lord Michael Hastings**, International Head of Citizenship, KPMG
- **Catie Shavin**, Director, Global Business Initiative
- **Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove**, Reader in Business Ethics, University of Greenwich
- **Dr. Aurora Voiculescu**, Reader in Socio-Legal Studies and Human Rights, University of Westminster
- **Dr. Kit Barton**, Principal Lecturer in Business Ethics, Regent's University London
- **Doug Specht**, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications, University of Westminster
- **Dr. Opi Outhwaite**, Senior Lecturer in Law, St Mary's University
- **Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal**, Principal Lecturer in Philosophy, Business Ethics, and Entrepreneurship, Regent's University London
- **Zhiwei Hu**, Beijing Language and Culture University

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Research workshop
Regent's University London, 10 September 2019

Venue: Regent's University London, Regency Suite 02 / T114
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NS

Organiser: Dr Ana-Maria Pascal
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Instructions for speakers: each presentation should last approximately 15 min, to be followed by 5 minutes for brief comments by the allocated discussant and another 15 minutes for general discussion.

Morning session: 9:00 – 12:30
Business and Human Rights – what works
Chair: Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal

9:00-9:30: Welcome and registration (Regency Suite 02)

9:30 – 10:10: Keynote speech (T114)

Lord Michael Hastings, International Head of Citizenship, KPMG, and Chancellor of Regent's University London: *Human rights, between law and morality*

10:10 – 10:45: Catie Shavin, Global Business Initiative: *Insights from business practice, with a focus on access to remedy and/or policy developments*
Discussant: Dr. Aurora Voiculescu

Coffee break: [10:45 – 11:15 \(Regency Suite 02 / OS1\)](#)

11:15 – 11:50: Aurora Voiculescu, University of Westminster: *The Long Road to Business and Human Rights Reform: Law, Policy and Social Justice in the Cotton Fields of Uzbekistan*
Discussant: Catie Shavin

11:50 - 12:25: Dr. Kit Barton, Regent's University London: *Eventual alignment: Global ethical principles in business*
Discussant: Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal

Lunch: [12:30 – 13:30 \(Regency Suite 02 / OS1\)](#)

Afternoon session: 13:30 – 16:15
The role of governments in supporting human rights
Chair: Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove

- 13:30 – 14:05:** **Dr. Opi Outhwaite, Senior Lecturer in Law, St Mary's University: *Promotion of human rights within the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement***
Discussant: Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove
- 14:05 – 14:40:** **Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove, University of Greenwich: *Regulatory developments on whistleblowing***
Discussant: Dr. Opi Outhwaite
- 14:40 – 15:00:** [Coffee break \(Regency Suite 02 / OS1\)](#)
- 15:00 – 15:35:** **Doug Specht, University of Westminster: *Human Rights: Mappings, Surveillance, and Sousveillance***
Discussant: Dr Kit Barton
- 15:35 – 16:10:** **Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal, Regent's University London, and Zhiwei Hu, Beijing Language and Culture University: *Government guidance and company disclosures on CSR and Human Rights in China***
Discussant: Doug Specht
- 16:10 – 16:15:** [Closing Remarks and Group Photo](#)

