Call for Applications
Research Methods in Fundamental Rights
Workshop for PhD and Early Career Researchers

The Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School is pleased to announce its Third Annual Workshop on Research Methods in Fundamental Rights, taking place from 7-9 June 2022 at the Hertie School, Berlin, Germany and online. The workshop is hosted by the Hertie School, as a member of CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences.

The Workshop aims to provide doctoral and early-career legal researchers with opportunities to reflect on diverse research methods in human rights research. Over three days, successful candidates will attend master classes with renowned faculty, who will provide guidance and reflections on the methods they have applied in key pieces of their own research. Participants will have assigned readings that they prepare in advance and receive video-recorded presentations by Faculty for each class. In additional sessions, participants will submit reflections on their own research questions and methods, and will receive individual feedback on their projects from faculty and participants.

Workshop sessions include: Case selection and comparative methods (Prof. Cathryn Costello and Prof. Başak Çalış); ‘Dissection’ as a method (Prof. Marie-Bénédicte Dembour); Interviews in socio-legal human rights research (Prof. Başak Çalış and Prof. Alice Donald); Process tracing (Prof. Mark Dawson); Archival methods and TWAIL methodology (Prof. Mohammad (Shahab) Shahabuddin); Coding and content analysis in human rights research (Dr. Ezgi Yıldız); Interpretivism as a normative approach (Dr. Alain Zysset); and Critical feminist methods (Dr. Petra Sußner).

We encourage applications from PhD and early-career legal researchers carrying out fundamental rights research employing any of the methodological approaches covered in the workshop.

Date: 7 – 9 June 2022

Location: Onsite at Hertie School, Berlin, Germany and online via Zoom

The workshop will be hosted in a hybrid format both in-person at the Hertie School as well as online via zoom (subject to participants’ preferences). Participants will receive assigned readings and video-recorded presentations by Faculty in advance of the workshop, as well as guidance on the preparation of their own workshop presentations.

Participation fee: 250 €
The Centre for Fundamental Rights will offer a tuition waiver for up to three participants. Priority is given to participants from the Global South.

Candidates who have no source of funding from their host institutions and wish to apply for a tuition waiver should indicate so in their application.

Application process:
Deadline for applications: 20 March 2022

Please submit your application by sending an email to fundamentalrights[at]hertie-school[dot]org with the subject line 'Research Methods in Fundamental Rights'. Applications should include one single pdf file, containing the following information:
• A CV
• A letter of motivation. Please indicate clearly the method(s) that you apply/are interested in applying in your research, and whether you wish to attend the workshop on-site or online.
• An Outline of your research project, including your research question, research methodology and current stage of the research (2 pages).

To support the application of PhD candidates a letter of recommendation written by their PhD supervisor should be sent separately by 20 March 2022 to fundamentalrights[at]hertie-school[dot]org with the subject line 'Letter of recommendation – Name of the candidate - Research Methods in Fundamental Rights'.

Successful applicants will receive a written confirmation of acceptance no later than 10 April 2022 and are expected to submit a draft research proposal with a dedicated methodology section as well as a recorded 15 minutes presentation by 15 May 2022.

A detailed programme and list of readings will be made available by 15 May 2022. Video presentations will be available for the participants 10 days prior to the workshop.