Within the Realm of Possible:
Reforming the UN Treaty Bodies' Individual Communications Mechanisms

15 November 2019 | Hertie School | Forum, 1st Floor

Workshop Programme

9:00-9:30   Registration and Coffee
9:30-9:45   Welcome

Başak Çalı, Hertie School, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Berlin

9:45-11:15  Panel I: Interpretation of Treaties: Procedural and Substantive Dimensions

Chair: Andreas Føllesdal, PluriCourts, University of Oslo

» Anne-Katrin Wolf (practicing lawyer, Berlin), "Standing Before the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies – A Call to Rethink Ius Standi in View of the Substantive Law of the Treaties"

» Alain Zysset (University of Glasgow) and Antoinette Scherz (PluriCourts, University of Oslo), "Reforming Through Reasons: Treaty Interpretation, Proportionality and the Legitimate Authority of the CESCR"

» Geir Ulfstein (PluriCourts, University of Oslo), "The Margin of Appreciation in Treaty Body Jurisprudence"

Discussant: Andreas Zimmermann, University of Potsdam, member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

11:15-11:30  Coffee Break

11:30-13:00  Panel II: Remedies, Follow-up, and Implementation

Chair: Geir Ulfstein, PluriCourts, University of Oslo

» Helena Rodríguez-Bronchú Carceller (human rights law consultant, Geneva), "Enhancing Compliance of the Monitoring Process to Foster Implementation"

» Irina Criveț (Koç University, Istanbul), "Remedies and Follow-up Procedures of Individual Communications of the CEDAW and CRPD Committees: The Missing Link?"

» Andreas von Staden (Universität Hamburg), "(Sometimes) As Good as a Court: Compliance with the Legally Non-Binding Views of the Committee against Torture"

Discussant: Gentian Zyberi, University of Oslo, member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

13:00-14:00  Lunch Break
14:00-15:30 Panel III: Country Perspectives

Chair: Başak Çali, Hertie School, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Berlin

» Aleksandra Koneva (Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow), “Towards Better Compliance with the Human Rights Treaty Bodies’ Views through Improving National Enforcement Mechanisms: The Perspective of the Russian Federation”

» Khadidja Nemar (MENA Rights Group, Geneva), “Individual Communications against North-African States before the UN Committee against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee”

» Andreas von Staden and Andreas Ullmann (Universität Hamburg), “Normative Commitments and Costly Signals: Explaining the Acceptance of Individual Communications and Inquiry Procedures across the Core UN Human Rights Treaties”

Discussant: Hélène Tigroudja, Aix-Marseille University, member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:15 Panel IV: Ways for Internal Cohesiveness and External Effectiveness

Chair: Başak Çali, Hertie School, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Berlin

» Martin Scheinin (European University Institute, Florence) “Treaty Bodies and Their Evolving Practices: Building a Foundation for a World Court of Human Rights”


» Alexandre Skander Galand and Başak Çali (Hertie School, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Berlin), “Speaking with a single voice? Common trends in the case law of the UN treaty bodies”

Discussant: Mehrdad Payandeh, Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

17:15-17:45 Wrap Up and Next Steps