



CALL FOR PAPERS
St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
XAVIER LAW SCHOOL
organises

2nd International Conference on Human Rights
on
Decolonising Human Rights: Towards Pluriversality

January 21–22, 2027 | Mode: Hybrid

About the Conference

For decades, the international human rights regime has been built on a presumption of universality. The idea that a single, homogenous framework can and should be applied identically across the globe has been the norm. However, in the process of decolonisation, this 'universalist' approach is increasingly recognised as an imposition rather than a mere neutral baseline. The twenty-first-century discourses have exposed the profound contradictions at the core of the international legal order. While the literature on human rights suggests a concept of universal liberation, the structure of international law, deeply rooted in colonial history and Western jurisprudence, often serves to protect global capital and to establish systemic inequalities. The international legal order often enforces Western liberal priorities such as 'hyper-individualism,' absolute private property, anthropocentric capitalism, etc., while delimiting alternative ways of being.

The concept of pluriversality is based on three foundational pillars:

1. Shifting from individualism to collectivism
2. Decentering humans and recognising the rights of Nature
3. Developing epistemic disobedience in international law

The conference aims to explore new directions in human rights scholarship by engaging with diverse intellectual frameworks, experiences and priorities of (ex)colonial voices in the global south and other non-Western contexts. The conference critically examines the premise that decolonisation is not merely a historical event of statehood, but an ongoing, urgent requirement for the whole international legal order. As post-colonial states navigate the complex webs of widening global inequalities, geopolitical instabilities and ecological collapse, the traditional doctrines of international law are increasingly experiencing a legitimacy crisis. By bringing together perspectives from law, social sciences, and humanities, the conference aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, explore synergies and divergences in the meaning and scope of decolonial research, and reimagine rights, self-determination, and political organisation by destabilising anthropocentric and humanist assumptions. The conference invites us to propose transformative alternatives to Eurocentric foundations of knowledge systems, human rights and justice within the pluriversal tapestry of entanglement and relational coexistence. We welcome original manuscripts on the following indicative subthemes:

- Deconial frameworks, methods, and vocabularies in Law, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Corporate Accountability & Decolonising Commerce
- Decolonizing Education: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Praxis
- Decolonising Crime, Policing, Prisons
- Decolonising Health and Ethics of Care
- Indigenous Rights and Cultural Heritage
- Posthumanism and Literary Studies
- Feminist perspectives from the Global South
- Jurisprudential Foundations and Epistemic Justice: TWAIL and Decolonising Courts
- Political Economy of International Law & Global Capital
- Climate Action in the Global South
- Environmental Governance in More-than-Human Worlds
- Trade Sovereignty & The Decolonisation of Investment
- Technology and New Legal Subjectivities: Rights of the Future and Non-humans
- Enforcement, Institutions and Future of the Legal Order

Submission Guidelines

- **Participants:** Full papers accepted from Academicians, Professionals, Research Scholars and PG Students (PG students eligible for offline poster presentations only)
- **Abstracts:** Max 500 words, brief biography (max 150 words), and institutional affiliation
- **First Draft:** Working paper reflecting problem, objectives, methodology, etc.
- **Format:** MS Word, Times New Roman (Title: Bold 14pt, Text 12pt, Footnotes: 10pt), Line Spacing: 1.5, Citations: OSCOLA 4th Edition
- **Poster Guidelines (PG Students):** 4x3 feet, Introduction - Methods - Results - Discussion. Must include Track Name, Title, Authors, Affiliations, and Logos (Institution)

Important Dates

- **Deadline for Abstract Submission:** 15th September 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 20th September 2026
- **Submission of First Draft:** 31st October 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 10th November 2026
- **Conference Registration**
 - **Early Bird:** 12th November 2026 - 30th November 2026
 - **Standard:** 1st December 2026 - 10th January 2027
- **Last date of Registration:** 10th January 2027
- **Deadline for Full Paper Submission (5,000-8,000 words):** 15th January 2027.

Registration Fees:

Category	Offline (Standard/Early Bird)	Online (Standard/Early Bird)
Academician/Professionals (Single Authored)	Rs. 2,500 / Rs. 2,000	Rs. 1,500 / Rs. 1,000
Academician/Professionals (Co-Authored)	Rs. 3,500 / Rs. 3,000	Rs. 2,500 / Rs. 2,000
Research Scholars (Single Authored)	Rs. 1,500 / Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,500 / Rs. 1,000
Research Scholars (Co-Authored)	Rs. 2,500 / Rs. 2,000	Rs. 2,500 / Rs. 2,000
P.G. Students - Poster (Single Authored)	Rs. 1,500 / Rs. 1,000	N/A
P.G. Students - Poster (Co-Authored)	Rs. 2,000 / Rs. 2,000	N/A
Foreign Scholars (Including SAARC)	USD 60	USD 60

Please submit your abstracts via email to: ichr.sxuk@gmail.com

***The best selected papers will be published as an edited book by a reputable publisher with an ISBN, and some papers will be published in a special issue of Xavier Law Review.**