

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata,

Xavier Law School

in collaboration with

Käte Hamburger Centre for Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Studies,

Heidelberg University, Germany

University of Applied Sciences and Arts HES-SO Valais-Wallis,

School of Social Work, Switzerland

West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Centre for Child Rights

and

Science City, a unit of National Council of Science Museums,

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

organises



2nd International Human Rights Conference

On

Decolonising Human Rights: Towards Pluriversality

21st – 22nd January 2027



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 the three foundational pillars. Firstly, shifting from individualism to collectivism. In a pluriversal human rights framework, collective rights, which are frequently displaced by multinationals, such as the rights of indigenous communities, are elevated. Secondly, decentering humans and recognising the rights of Nature. In a pluriversal legal movement, ecosystems are recognised as right-bearing entities. Thirdly, developing epistemic disobedience in international law. In the context of human rights, pluriversality is not cultural relativism; rather, it is the recognition that there are multiple, equally valid ways to understand human dignity, justice, and our relationship with the world(s).

The three-day international 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:

Subthemes:

- *Decolonial frameworks, methods, and vocabularies in Law, Humanities and Social Sciences*
- *Corporate Accountability & Decolonial Commerce*

- *Decolonising 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*

Mode of Conference: Hybrid

Submission Guidelines: We encourage submissions from Law as well as from a diverse array of disciplines, including but not limited to Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, International Relations, Political Science, History, Literature and Cultural Studies. Submissions from scholars based in the Global South, specialising in human rights, are especially welcome.

Participants: Full papers shall be accepted from Academicians, Professionals, Research Scholars, Post-graduate Students and Under-graduate students (UG students must co-author with any of the above categories of authors).

Abstracts: Please submit an extended abstract of no more than 500 words, along with a brief biography (maximum 150 words) and your institutional/organisational affiliation.

First Draft: Notified authors shall submit a first draft (working paper). The first draft shall reflect work in progress and be aligned with the research problem, objective(s), research question(s), methodology, findings significance, etc.

Format:

- Submissions should clearly reflect (but may not be subtitled as) research question(s), methodology, and the specific subtheme it addresses.
- The document should be submitted as an MS Word file.

All texts in the submission, including headings, sub-headings and footnotes, should be in Font Type- Times New Roman. The Title should be Bold with font size 14 and Centre Alignment; the full text should be font size 12. The footnotes should be Font Size- 10.

- The Line Spacing of the main text and footnotes should be 1.5 and 1, respectively. Headings: Justified Alignment, Bold, and Font Size-12; Subheadings: Justified Alignment, Italic, Bold, and Font Size-12.
- Tables and Figures (if any) should be clearly labelled and numbered sequentially and placed within the text of the manuscript. The names of the tables and figures should be on the top and bottom of the tables and figures, respectively.
- Supplementary material (if any) can be submitted as a separate file.

All citations and references must strictly adhere to the OSCOLA (Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities) 4th Edition. Please ensure all references are carefully checked for completeness, accuracy, and consistency.

Please submit your abstracts via email directly to ichr.sxuk@gmail.com with the subject line: “Submission for ICHR 2027”

Registration Fees:

- For Academicians and Professionals:
 - Offline Paper Presentation:
 - Single Authored: Rs. 1500 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 1200)
 - Co-Authored: Rs. 2500 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 1800)
 - Online Paper Presentation:
 - Single Authored: Rs. 1200 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 1000)
 - Co-Authored: Rs. 2000 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 1500)
- For Research Scholars, PG and UG students:
 - Offline/Online Paper Presentation:
 - Single Authored: Rs. 1000 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 800)
 - Co-Authored: Rs. 1500 (Early Bird Registration: Rs. 1200)
- Foreign Scholars (including SAARC nations): USD 60

Registration includes a Conference kit, Morning Tea/Coffee, Lunch, Evening Tea/Coffee, and access to all conference sessions for three days.

Accommodation costs are not included. A limited number of subsidised accommodation options will be available to interested attendees. Please note that the full registration fee will apply to PG and UG students for co-authored papers with academicians/professionals.

The registration fee also includes a half-day exciting tour for participants attending physically, at the Science City of Kolkata on January 23, 2027 (details of the excursion will be communicated during the conference).

The best selected papers will be published as an edited book by a reputable publisher (to be notified shortly), with an ISBN, and some papers will be published in a special issue of Xavier Law Review volume III(2).

Important Dates:

Extended Deadline for Abstract Submission: 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

Submission of First Draft: 20th December 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 5th January 2027

Last date of Registration: 10th January 2027

Deadline for Full Paper Submission (5,000 - 8,000 words): 15th January 2027

Organisers/Conveners:

Dr. Animesh Das, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Dr. Debolina Chatterjee, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Prof. (Dr.) Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata

Dr. Eduardo Altheman C. Santos, CAPAS, Heidelberg University, Germany

Prof. (Dr.) Marina Richter, University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HES-SO) Valais-Wallis, Switzerland

For any queries and submissions, email us at: ichr.sxuk@gmail.com