

August 2008



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News from the Interface of Statistics and Human Rights

"Over the past three decades, statisticians have increasingly made an impact on the monitoring and attainment of human rights through the development and transition of statistical techniques to the human rights community. Only recently, however, have official statisticians ... begun to consider issues of human rights in their work, and official human rights practitioners ... begun to consider how statistics can improve human rights monitoring. Over the past decade, the largest concrete effort to bring those statisticians and human rights practitioners together has been the Metagora project, a project in which the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program has been significantly involved and which has resulted in strong contributions to statistical methodology for enhancing and attaining human rights in countries around the world." [Read more.](#)



Realizing the Right to Benefit from Scientific Progress - 100 states report on Article 15

ACTION ALERT

Call for Urgent Action on behalf of Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei from Human Rights Watch and Physicians for Human Rights ([link](#))

SHRP EVENTS

September 15, 2008
Washington, DC
6th Science and Human Rights Coalition Planning Meeting ([link](#))

October 23, 2008
Washington, DC
Science Serving Human Rights: Making It Happen

RESOURCES

Health and Human Rights: An International Journal
François-Xavier Bagnoud
Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health

SHRP's Article 15 Project has identified and compiled the reports of 100 states detailing the measures they have adopted to realize the right to benefit from scientific progress. From constitutional protections of scientific research, to supporting professional scientific associations, there are many different steps states can take towards realizing this right. By compiling reports of state practice, the Article 15 Project not only aims to demonstrate the significance and practical application of this right, but also to provide the scientific and human rights communities with a tool by which to determine the further steps states should take to realize this right in practice. Click [here](#) to access these reports.

Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project Welcomes New Staff



Susan Wolfenbarger is joining the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project as a Senior Program Associate. Susan is a geography PhD candidate from Ohio State University with expertise in geographic

information systems, and geographic methods. Susan will contribute to the conceptualization, development, and deployment of geospatial technologies and information for human rights-related challenges. In particular, she will work extensively with Amnesty International, USA, on efforts to counter mass violence, forced displacement, and secret detentions.

Science and Human Rights Coalition

Final Planning Meeting: September 15, 2008

With the public launch of the Coalition rapidly approaching the final planning meeting will take place on Monday, September 15 at 8:45am-1:00pm at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting is to consider two final sets of recommendations for Organizational Structure and a Plan of Action (2009-2011) and to review the full set of foundational documents to be presented at the Coalition Launch in January (Mission and Goals, Membership, and five Areas of Activity). View the agenda and register for the meeting online [here](#).

"After more than a decade as a print publication, *Health and Human Rights* has begun a new chapter, as an online and open access publication (www.hhrjournal.org).

... An international journal, *Health and Human Rights* is dedicated to scholarship and praxis that advance health as an issue of fundamental human rights and social justice. It seeks to provide a forum for academics, practitioners and activists from public health, human rights and related fields to explore how rights-based approaches to health can be implemented in practice."

Constitutional Rights and New Technologies: A Comparative Study
Ronald E. Leenes, Bert-Jaap Koops, Paul De Hert (eds) ([link](#))

"New technologies affect the legal system, but do they and should they affect constitutional rights? These are questions that every country has to address, taking into account their constitutional system and legal tradition. This book surveys changes in constitutional rights and human rights policy related to developments in ICT and new technologies in the USA, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands."

Horizontal Inequalities

Introducing our Areas of Activity: Information Resources

"Information Resources" is one of the Coalition's five areas of planned activity. The primary goal of this area is to identify, compile, and develop resources that can be used to establish strong foundations for productive, collaborative work on human rights. Proposed activities include: compiling and producing information that renders science and the scientific methods accessible to human rights audiences; developing a translational piece to facilitate communication between the human rights and scientific communities; and exploring options for developing a curriculum for teaching science and human rights.

Opportunity to provide input - The Information Resources committee has already started to pursue some of its planned activities and seeks your input. Specifically, the committee seeks to identify case studies of successful collaborations between scientists (from across the life, physical, behavioral and social sciences), and human rights practitioners (addressing economic, social, cultural, civil or political rights). To this end, please send [John King](#) examples of how you or your organization have directed or participated in any such collaborative projects. This information will be used to develop information materials about the application of science to human rights and will be presented at the Coalition launch in January 2009.

Further details about the rationale, objectives and content of the Information Resources area of activity are available [here](#). If you wish to find out more about this area of activity and how your association can participate, please contact the committee chairs, [Judith Blau](#) (Sociologists Without Borders), [John King](#) (International Studies Association), and [Julie Mertus](#) (International Studies Association).

Introducing our Members: American Psychological Association

"The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization that represents psychology in the United States. With 148,000 members, APA is the largest association of psychologists worldwide." The Committee



and Conflict: Understanding Group Violence in Multiethnic Societies

Frances Stewart ([link](#))

"Violent conflict in multiethnic societies in the developing world is a pre-eminent problem of the twenty-first century. Drawing on original quantitative and qualitative research, this book shows that horizontal inequalities among religious or ethnic groups, in political, social, economic or cultural dimensions, are an important catalyst of such conflicts. The contributors identify policies to reduce horizontal inequalities and argue that such policies should now be routinely incorporated into the development agenda."

on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) of the APA was founded in 1944 to "advise APA on the rehabilitation of psychological laboratories and libraries in post-World War II Europe. CIRP is now responsible for "developing contact between psychologists in the United States and their colleagues abroad. The Committee's mission includes to: ... monitor within the international context and take action in cases involving infringements of the rights of psychologist or abuse of psychological knowledge and techniques wherever these may occur ... and apply psychological knowledge to the alleviation of psychological suffering attendant upon abuses of human rights." [Read more.](#)

For more information about the Coalition and how you or your organization can become involved, please [visit our website](#). To receive the latest information about the Coalition, please sign-up for our [Coalition Listserv](#).

From the Science Community

Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism

"Organ trafficking, transplant tourism, and transplant commercialism, which threaten to undermine the practice of transplantation worldwide, were the focus of an international summit in Istanbul from April 20 to May 1, 2008. The summit was convened by The Transplantation Society and the International Society of Nephrology. The meeting resulted in the [Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism](#), which aims to halt these unethical activities and to foster safe and accountable practices that meet the needs of transplant recipients while protecting donors." According to the Preamble, the Declaration "builds on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." [Read more.](#)

Nobel Laureates Seek Answer to the Question - "Who owns science?"

In an article published in *The Times* on July 5, 2008, Nobel Laureates John Sulston and Joseph Stiglitz call for a reassessment of the current system of managing research and innovation with a view to enhancing access to the benefits of science and technology. "The ideal shared by almost all scientists is that science should be open and transparent, not just in its practices and

procedures, but so that the results and the knowledge generated through research should be freely accessible to all. There is a broad consensus in the scientific community that such openness and transparency promotes the advancement of science and enhances the likelihood that the benefits of science are enjoyed by all. For more than a hundred years, these principles have been the bedrock of academia and the scientific community ... We call upon all interested in the future of science to join with us in an active and open-ended search for answers." [Read more.](#)

From the UN

South African Justice is Next UN Human Rights Chief



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Judge Nvanethem Pillay of South Africa as the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ms. Pillay will succeed Louise Arbour of Canada, who completed her five-year term on 30 June. Since 2003, Ms. Pillay has served as Judge on the International Criminal Court (ICC), based in The Hague, Netherlands. Prior to that, she served as both Judge and President on the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which she joined in 1995. [Read more.](#)

The Right to Health - Fact Sheet No. 31

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO) recently published The Right to Health: Fact



Sheet No.31 as part of the [OHCHR Human Rights Fact Sheet](#) series. Fact Sheet No. 31 explains the meaning of the right to health; how it applies to various groups of individuals, including women, children, migrants, and persons living with HIV/AIDS; and the obligations and responsibilities of states and others, including the private sector, for realizing this right. It also discusses the national, regional and international accountability and monitoring mechanisms. [Read more.](#)

About the SHRP Newsletter

The Science & Human Rights Newsletter is issued monthly by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program. Through the newsletter we strive to keep scientists and human rights practitioners informed with news items, program updates, new resources, and upcoming events at the intersection of science and human rights. Submissions to the newsletter are welcome and can be made via our [online submission form](#).

Please visit our website to learn more about our [programs](#) as well as our [past accomplishments](#).

Science and Human Rights Program

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