CIGJ Workshop

Aspirational Rituals:
Promises and Utopias in Human Rights

Thursday & Friday 30-31 July 2015, starting at 10am,
Seminar Room 1.04, Coombs Extension Building, 8 Fellows Road, ANU

The language of imagination, hope, futurity, and conclusion permeates human rights, sometimes proclaiming their pending demise, at others anticipating different opportunities.

This workshop will investigate the interlinked concepts of utopia and promise in human rights, examining how ideas of realised potential and possibility suffuse rights.

Speakers include Barnita Bagchi (Utrecht), Michelle Burgis-Kasthala (ANU), Margaret Davies (Flinders), Eliza Gamsey (Cambridge), Ben Golder (UNSW), Rachel Hughes (Melbourne), Robert Leckey (McGill) and Terri Tomsky (Alberta).

In it, participants will analyse the prominence of a number of elegies for human rights, where predictions of their “endtimes” mix with claims that they form the “last” of utopias.

Participants will also consider how human rights utopias and promises function as regulation, ritual, and ritualism, the central theoretical concerns of the ARC Laureate Fellowship project “Strengthening the international human rights regime: Rights, regulation, and ritualism”, of which this workshop is a part.

Participant numbers are limited; if you are interested in attending please contact Benjamin Authers in the first instance. Attendees will be expected to read the workshop papers in advance and engage with discussions during the event.

Presented by
Centre for International Governance & Justice,
Regulatory Institutions Network
ANU College of
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