



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg

Symposium

Expanding Human Rights Protection to Non-Human Subjects? Animals, Nature, Corporations, and Robots as (Potential) Human Rights Subjects

8 June 2024



Venue:

FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
School of Business and Economics, WiSo,
Findelgasse 9, 90402 Nürnberg

The symposium is open to students, academics, practitioners and interested parties. The symposium can be attended online uer3.rw.fau.eu/conference or in person.

To participate in person, please register until 1 June 2024 by email uer3-lehrstuhl-wiater@fau.de stating your name, institutional affiliation and field of work.

Participation is free of charge.

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Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Center for Human Rights
Erlangen-Nürnberg | CHREN



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Symposium

Expanding Human Rights Protection to Non-Human Subjects? Animals, Nature, Corporations, and Robots as (Potential) Human Rights Subjects

Human rights practice is at a crossroads when it comes to dealing with non-human subjects. The European Court of Human Rights grants human rights protection to corporations, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights indicated to recognise components of the environment (e.g. forests, rivers, and oceans) as subjects of protection, in line with 'Rights of Nature' approaches. The African system adopts an intermediate position. The fact that human rights protection is already, in part, open to non-human subjects gives rise to a 'coherence demand' for the inclusion of others, such as animals and AI. The non-human entities the symposium deals with are all related to global governance challenges, namely planetary environmental crises, the globalisation of production networks, and digitalisation.

The symposium will consider the different regional human rights approaches and critically analyse the potentials and risks of addressing these global challenges by granting human rights protection to non-human entities.

Members of the three regional human rights courts, namely Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei, (African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights), Judge Verónica Gómez (Inter-American Court of Human Rights), and Judge Tim Eicke (European Court of Human Rights), will take part in the symposium and discuss with the speakers after the presentations.

Programme

8 June 2024, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

9:30 Welcome coffee and opening remarks

Patricia Wiater, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

10:00 Session 1

'Corporate Human Rights': Obstacle or Precursor to Corporate Human Rights Accountability?

Michael Waibel, University of Vienna

10:30 Discussion

*moderated by Markus Krajewski,
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Session 2

'Rights of Nature' in Human Rights Courts or a Parallel Protection System?

Monica Ferial-Tinta, Twenty Essex London

12:00 Discussion

*moderated by Laura Clérico,
University of Buenos Aires/FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

12:30 Lunch break

1:30 Session 3

Animal Rights as Human Rights: Anthropocentric, Zoocentric, and Ecocentric Rationales

Saskia Stucki, Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg

2:00 Discussion

*moderated by Heiner Bielefeldt,
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

2:30 Session 4

If Human Rights Protection for Corporations, why not for Robots too?

Patricia Wiater, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

3:00 Discussion

*moderated by Paulina Jo Pesch,
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg*

3:30 Coffee break

4:00 Session 5

Corporate Accountability and Environmental Protection from the Perspective of African (Human Rights) Courts

*James Gathii,
Loyola University Chicago School of Law*

4:30 Discussion

*moderated by Thoko Kaime,
University of Bayreuth*

Organisers:

*FAU – Chair of Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights,
FAU Forschungszentrum Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU CHREN)*