



**TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DRESDEN**

# 4th International Summer School 2025 in Dresden

August 25 – August 29, 2025

## Human Rights in Theory and Practice:

## Navigating Change – Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights

### Welcome

We are delighted to invite you to the fourth edition of the International Summer School “Human Rights in Theory and Practice,” which will take place from August 25 to August 29, 2025 and will address highly relevant and pressing issues in the field of human rights. We are also thrilled to welcome you to Dresden, the capital of Saxony. Known as the “Florence on the Elbe,” Dresden is renowned for its unique cultural offerings. The city is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, including the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, famously captured in the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich. Thus, you can look forward to a perfect blend of excellent academic discussions, cultural richness, and stunning natural scenery.

### Summer School Overview

In today’s world, entirely new developments are emerging, which pose unprecedented threats to individuals, such as the accelerating effects of climate change, emerging public health threats despite medical improvement or the unwarranted use of artificial intelligence (AI). When the International Bill of Human Rights was drafted, these developments were unforeseen, and no specific treaties were adopted containing corresponding norms to address these human rights challenges. This becomes problematic because, in the worst case, our traditional understanding of human rights norms may no longer adequately address new realities, creating a conflict between evolving societal needs and the existing normative content.

The increasing legislative inactivity of states in this regard places a greater burden on human rights courts leading to our main question: to what extent can human rights courts and treaty bodies respond to factual change by (re-)interpreting existing human rights norms to address new challenges?

The program will leverage modern formats such as coffee talks and interactive components, promoting an interdisciplinary approach and drawing on the expertise of both practitioners and academics. Additionally, a rich evening program will offer opportunities for relaxation, ensuring both intellectual and personal well-being.

### Contact

#### Postal address

Center for International Studies (ZIS)  
TU Dresden  
01062 Dresden

#### Venue

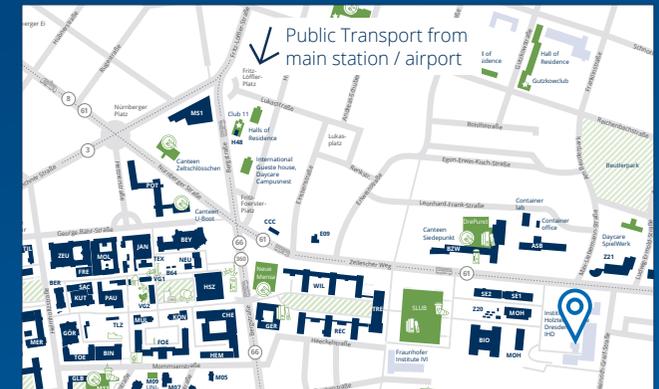
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## Participation

All interested advanced students of international law, political science, international relations, and related fields are welcome to participate, provided they are willing to thoroughly engage with the topics throughout the Summer School. Prior knowledge of human rights is an advantage but not required.

## Registration

Registration is now open via the [application form](#). Once your application has been processed, we will inform you via email and provide further details shortly thereafter. If you are unable to register via our registration form, please contact us via our official [Summer School email address](#).

## Venue

The Summer School will take place at TU Dresden. In line with the theme of our Summer School – the future of human rights –, we will be hosting it in the [futuristic-looking conference room](#) of the [Institut für Holztechnik Dresden: Zellescher Weg 24, 01217 Dresden](#).

## Accommodation and Arrival

Accommodation and Arrival is not provided and must be arranged by each participant. We will share recommendations for affordable lodging after the registration phase is complete. We are also pleased to assist with individual travel planning.

## Certificate

Upon participation and successful completion of the Summer School, in-person participants will be awarded a certificate worth 5 ECTS, while online participants will receive a certificate worth 3 ECTS. This includes the successful completion of the final examination. Please ensure you verify in advance whether the ECTS credits will be recognized by your home university.

## Fee

The participation fee is €200 for in-person attendees and €50 for online participants. The in-person fee includes lunch, coffee, refreshments and snacks, the rich evening program as well as city tours and excursions. There will also be the opportunity of a travel grant. Unfortunately, advance payments are not possible, so even if the grant is approved, the funds will only be disbursed after submitting the respective receipts.

## Organisation Team

The International Summer School series is jointly organized by Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger and Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić (TU Dresden, Center for International Studies), along with Prof. Dr. Stephanie Schiedermaier and Prof. Dr. Matthias Wendel (Leipzig University), and is supported by DRESDEN-concept – research alliance TU Dresden.

Further information by scanning the QR code or via the link:

[tud.link/qs7fhf](https://tud.link/qs7fhf)



|                      | Monday, August 25   | Tuesday, August 26  | Wednesday, August 27  | Thursday, August 28   | Friday, August 29   |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Time</b>          | <b>From Factual Change to Norm Change in the International Human Rights System</b>  | <b>Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Environmental Challenges to Human Rights</b>   | <b>Emerging Public Health Threats Amidst and Despite Medical Improvement</b>  | <b>The Peak of Technology: Can Human Rights Keep Pace with AI Developments?</b>   | <b>Interactive Conference</b>   |
| <b>09:00 - 10:30</b> | <p><b>9:00 - 10:00</b><br/><b>Initial registration and coffee</b></p> <p><b>10:00 - 10:30</b><br/><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger</i><br/><i>Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić</i></p>   | <p><b>Coffee Talk</b></p> <p>Generational Conflicts in Climate Protection Policies? – New Developments in the Climate Protection-Human Rights Nexus</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Aoife Nolan (tbc)</i><br/><i>Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs</i></p> | <p><b>Coffee Talk</b></p> <p>Scrutinizing the Right to Health: How far do State Obligations go?</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Mette Hartlev (tbc)</i><br/><i>Prof. Dr. Anna Kühne</i></p>         | <p><b>Coffee Talk</b></p> <p>Too Fast to Understand – a Human Right to “Unblackboxing”?</p> <p><i>Dr. Jan Hořeňovský</i><br/><i>Prof. Dr. Roberto Calandra</i></p>                          | <p><b>Begin at 09:30</b><br/><b>Conference</b></p> <p>Group work</p> <p>International Law Commission and States Representatives</p> <p><i>Secretariat: Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić</i></p>  |
| <b>10:45 - 12:15</b> | <p><b>Introductory Lecture</b></p> <p>Factual Change and Human Rights: Emergence of New Challenges and the Basics of Norm Change</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Geir Ulfstein</i></p>  | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Contamination and Pollution of the Environment: Linking Environmental and Human Rights Law – the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment</p> <p><i>Deniz Gedik</i></p>                           | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Accelerating Lifestyle Diseases: Matter of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living?</p> <p><i>Dr. Natalie Abrokwa</i></p>                                  | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>AI and Algorithmic Discrimination: The Utilization of Facial Recognition Technologies</p> <p><i>Natalia Menéndez González</i></p>                                  |   |
| <b>12:15 - 13.45</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>13:45 - 15:00</b> | <p><b>Introductory Lecture</b></p> <p>International Human Rights Interpretation: From Static to Dynamic, Toward Judge-Made Law by Judicial Activism?</p> <p><i>Dr. Kacper Zajac</i></p>   | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Sinking Countries and the Right to Return: Rethinking Nationality in the Face of Fundamental Human Rights Protection</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Ian Fry</i></p>   | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Your Property, My Health: Vaccines, Medication, and the Scope of the Right to Intellectual Property</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh</i></p>            | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Artistic Deepfakes of Decision Makers and Politicians: Covered by the Freedom of Expression?</p> <p><i>Dr. Felipe Romero Moreno</i></p>                            | <p><b>Conference</b></p> <p>Presentation of findings and solutions</p>  |
| <b>15:30 - 16:45</b> | <p><b>Interdisciplinary Talk</b></p> <p>Whither Humanity in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges of New Developments</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Veronika Bílková</i><br/><i>David Griffiths</i><br/><i>Paul-Joël Kamtchang</i></p> | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Convergence of Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Rights: Navigating Constraints in Ensuring the Right to Adequate Housing</p> <p><i>Dr. Karen Oliveira Da Costa</i></p>  | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Data Collection and the Human Genome: Stigmatization Based on Health-Related Data – a Privacy or Health Issue?</p> <p><i>Dr. James Hazel</i></p>               | <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Freedom of Thought and AI: Emerging Challenges of Neurotechnology</p> <p><i>Nora Hertz</i></p>   | <p><b>15:15 – 15:30</b><br/><b>Wrap-up and Formal Farewell</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger</i><br/><i>Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić</i></p>   |
| <b>Div.</b>          | <p><b>19:30 – Open End</b></p> <p>A leisurely stroll through Dresden Neustadt and its well-known establishments</p> <p><i>Albertplatz</i></p>   | <p><b>18:30 - 20:00 Public Evening Event</b></p> <p>Migration as a New “Method of Warfare ”: Legal Challenges for Individual Human Rights and the Demise of the Right to Asylum</p> <p><i>Frauenkirche Dresden</i></p>                  | <p><b>19:00 – Open End</b></p> <p>Midway celebration, frisbee and sunset with a fantastic view of Dresden Altstadt</p> <p><i>Elbwiesen</i><br/><i>(Grassland on the River Elbe)</i></p> | <p><b>18:00 – 19:00</b></p> <p>Rushed city trip by locals</p> <p><i>Altmarkt</i></p> <p><b>19:00 - 22:00</b></p> <p>Steamboat trip on the Elbe through Dresden and the surrounding area</p> | <p><b>16:30 – 18:00 Informal Farewell:</b></p> <p>Special Exhibition: “The Air We Share” with numerous works of art and interactive stations</p> <p><i>Deutsches Hygienemuseum</i><br/><i>(German Hygiene Museum Dresden)</i></p> |