

# Business Ethics and Human Rights, from Theory to **Practice**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**Regent's University London**

**Research Workshop**  
**Chaired by Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal**



In the context of the on-going consultation around the proposed UN Treaty for transnational business and human rights, the debate has recently focused on hard v. soft law, or mandatory v. voluntary initiatives. This workshop will address the question of **what works**, in practice, to increase corporate accountability and support for human rights.

## **Key topics –**

- The proposed UN Treaty on Transnational Business and Human Rights
- UNGP implementation through National Action Plans and other initiatives;
- Collaboration between state and business agents on human rights issues;
- Voluntary initiatives to help businesses increase their support for human rights;
- Victims' access to justice;
- Company human rights due diligence;
- Recent developments in whistleblowing policy, and implications for human rights;
- The role of the state in company disclosures on social responsibility and human rights.

## **Confirmed speakers –**

- **Lord Michael Hastings**, International Head of Citizenship, KPMG
- **Catie Shavin**, Director, Global Business Initiative
- **Lerato Thekiso**, Founding Director, Thekvest Legal Advisory Services, Johannesburg
- **Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove**, Reader in Business Ethics, University of Greenwich
- **Dr. Aurora Voiculescu**, Senior Lecturer in Social-Legal Studies, University of Westminster
- **Doug Specht**, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications, University of Westminster
- **Dr. Opi Outhwaite**, Senior Lecturer in Law, St Mary's University
- **Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal**, Principal Lecturer in Philosophy, Business Ethics, and Entrepreneurship, Regent's University London



***Business Ethics and Human Rights, from Theory to Practice***  
**Research workshop**  
**Regent's University London, 10 September 2019**

Venue: Regent's University London, Regency Suite 02 / H243  
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4NS

Organiser: Dr Ana-Maria Pascal

Principal Lecturer in Philosophy, Business Ethics and Entrepreneurship

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*Instructions for presentations:* each author presentation should last approx. 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for brief comments by the allocated discussant, and final 15 minutes general discussion

Since this is a research workshop, aimed to facilitate exchange of views and feedback on current projects, participants are encouraged to attend all sessions.

**Morning session: 9:00 – 12:10**  
***Business and Human Rights – what works***  
**Chair: Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal**

9:00-9:30: Welcome and registration

**9:30 – 10:10: Keynote speech**

**Lord Michael Hastings, International Head of Citizenship, KPMG, and Chancellor of Regent's University London: *Human rights, between law and morality* (TBC)**

**10:10 – 10:45: Catie Shavin, Global Business Initiative: *Insights from business practice, with a focus on access to remedy and/or policy developments***

Discussant: Aurora Voiculescu

Coffee break: 10:45 – 11:00

**11:00 – 11:35: Aurora Voiculescu, University of Westminster: *Human Rights in Cotton Supply Chains in Uzbekistan***

Discussant: Catie Shavin

**11:35 – 12:10: Lerato Thekiso, Thekvest Legal Advisory Services, Johannesburg: *Entrenching Corporate Due Diligence: A Challenge to business leadership***

Discussant: Ana-Maria Pascal

Lunch: 12:10 – 13:10

**Afternoon session: 13:15 – 16:00**

**The role of governments in supporting human rights**

**Chair: Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove**

**13:15 – 13:50: Dr. Opi Outhwaite, Senior Lecturer in Law, St Mary's University: *Promotion of human rights within the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement***

Discussant: Wim Vandekerckhove

**13:50 – 14:25: Dr. Wim Vandekerckhove, University of Greenwich: *Regulatory developments on whistleblowing***

Discussant: Opi Outhwaite

14:25 – 14:45: Coffee break

**14:45 – 15:20: Doug Specht, University of Westminster: *Human Rights: Mappings, Surveillance, and Sousveillance***

Discussant: Ana-Maria Pascal

**15:20 – 15:55: Dr. Ana-Maria Pascal, Regent's University London, and Zhiwei Hu, Beijing Language and Culture University: *Government guidance and corporate disclosures on CSR in China***

15:55 – 16:00: Closing Remarks and Group Photo

