



Guest Lecture

Human Rights Histories: Genesis, Validity and Ideology

The history of human rights is a rapidly expanding scholarly discipline. One of the central academic debates among historians of human rights is to seek to account for the origin and spread of human rights. Central questions are: How far does current human rights practice demonstrate continuity or radical discontinuity with previous attempts to secure rights? Is the history of human rights of foundational importance for their legitimacy? Are human rights nothing but a recent piece of normative ideology, destined to fade away in a future beyond rights?

Prof. Dr. J. Christopher McCrudden



Christopher McCrudden is Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law, Queen's University Belfast, and William W. Cook Global Law Professor at the University of Michigan Law School. He is also a fellow of the British Academy and visiting professor at the University of Oxford, where he previously taught as Professor of Human Rights Law. In 2013-14, he was a Straus Fellow at New York University Law School. In 2014-15, he was a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin.

He is the author of *Buying Social Justice: Equality, Government Procurement, and Legal Change* (2007), for which he was awarded a certificate of merit by the American Society of International Law in 2008 and (with Brendan O'Leary) *Courts and Consociations* (2013), as well as numerous journal articles. He is also the editor of the multi-disciplinary volume, *Understanding Human Dignity* (2013).

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Universität Zürich, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Rämistr. 74, Room RAI-H-041

With an introduction by Prof. Dr. Matthias Mahlmann