

CALL FOR PAPERS

Intergenerational Justice Conference

9 October 2015, World Trade Institute, Bern, Switzerland

The CRUS (Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities) joint doctoral programme between the Universities of Fribourg and Bern called "Droit, idées et politique de l'Europe – Recht, Ideen und Politik Europas – Law, Ideas and Politics of Europe", is pleased to announce an upcoming doctoral conference on Intergenerational Justice. The main goal of the conference is to discuss the different conceptions of intergenerational justice with a view to distilling concrete institutional and policy mechanisms that can be used to ensure greater coherence in this area.

Conference Theme

The concept of intergenerational justice implies that the present generation is tasked with protecting the peace, resources, good morals and laws of humanity for the benefit of future generations.

Various theories have been advanced to justify and denounce the need for intergenerational justice. For instance, some scholars argue that having inherited the earth from our ancestors, we must pass it on to our descendants. In other words, we have both rights and responsibilities. Conversely, other scholars argue that what is valued in one generation may not be valued in the next; thus, it is not enough to assert that every generation should take care of the needs of the next generation. Some philosophers even argue that future generations cannot have rights based simply on the fact that they will live in the future.

In essence, all of these theories are underpinned by a consideration of what is fair and/or just within and among generations. This brings into focus the debate between law and morality in regulating and determining the behaviour of people.

The conference seeks to answer various questions relating to intergenerational justice, including, but not limited to, the following:

- What are the ethical and/or philosophical notions guiding this debate?
- What broad strategies and/or specific actions can be used to implement intergenerational rights and obligations?
- How can we improve upon current methods and approaches when assessing intergenerational rights?

- Is it possible to pass on the same bundle of rights and responsibilities to the next generation and does the substance of these rights matter?
- How can we ensure that current institutional and legal frameworks become 'future just'?

Proposals

We construe intergenerational justice broadly, and we are open to a variety of scholarly approaches. We welcome proposals adopting 1. theoretical, 2. normative, 3. critical, 4. empirical, 5. historical, or 6. comparative frameworks. The topics addressed may relate to:

- Philosophical foundations of intergenerational justice
- The meaning and scope of intergenerational justice
- Fairness and equity across generations
- Human rights
- Environmental concerns
- Climate change
- Natural resource governance
- Land grabbing
- Disaster prevention and protection
- International trade
- Investment
- Environmental crimes
- Cultural genocide
- Self-determination
- Ombudsmen for intergenerational justice
- Generational attitudes
- The role of technology
- Innovation justice
- Sustainable development

We also welcome any other submissions on intergenerational justice.

The conference aims to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions in order to obtain a better understanding of theoretical and empirical reflections on intergenerational justice. Lawyers, philosophers and historians, as well as political scientists, economists and other scholars are invited to submit paper proposals on substantial, original, and unpublished research relating to all aspects of intergenerational justice. The conference seeks to bring doctoral students and other scholars together in order to facilitate networking and further opportunities for research collaboration in this field. To this end, doctoral candidates and junior academics – particularly those of the

Universities of Fribourg and Bern - are encouraged to participate and will be selected in priority.

Important Dates

Abstract submissions must be between 300-500 words in length and should be submitted with a one-page *Curriculum Vitae* by **15 June 2015** to [Clarence Siziba with copy to Shaheeza Lalani](#). Authors selected to present their papers at the conference will be notified by **21 July 2015** and are expected to submit completed papers of about 5,000 words in length (excluding footnotes) by **21 September 2015**. Selected papers are expected to be published as part of an edited volume on the subject.

Conference Details

The conference will take place at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland, on **9 October 2015** (www.wti.org).

Due to budgetary constraints, we are unable to provide travel or other financial assistance to conference participants.¹

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this call for papers, please e-mail the conference organisers, [Clarence Siziba](#) and [Shaheeza Lalani](#).

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¹Doctoral students from the University of Fribourg will be reimbursed for their travel expenses and should send the completed form at the following link to Mr Alexandre Biedermann: <http://www.unifr.ch/europrodoc/fr/accueil/Formation/programme-cus-droit-idees-et-politique-de-leurope>.