

Call for Papers

Special Issue on Business & Human Rights Research Methods

The Nordic Journal of Human Rights invites submissions for its special issue on research methods related to Business & Human Rights (BHR) to be published in 2018.

With the adoption and endorsement of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in 2011, respect for human rights is now an operational concern for business enterprises. In 2008, the Nordic Journal of Human Rights published one of the first special issues on the subject of Business and Human Rights (BHR). Since then, the BHR field has evolved, bringing the interdisciplinary nature of the field further to the forefront of theory as well as practice.

In interdisciplinary BHR research, methodological approaches vary, each embedded in its respective academic discipline. This entrenchment poses a challenge for scholars of law, business ethics, management and other fields who wish to have a conversation across disciplines and understand the practical developments and theoretical evolution of BHR.

This Special Issue seeks to promote the interdisciplinary potential of BHR research by inviting contributions that develop new methods for research and analysis, or pragmatically apply methods across academic disciplines, bridging the division among academic disciplines. We invite submission of original research that display methods for BHR research, or methodological models, or theoretical explanations of the challenges and opportunities in BHR research methods. The following list is an indicative, but not exhaustive, list of possible areas for submissions:

Analysing human rights as operational concern for business enterprises

- What data is relevant to analyse how businesses deal with human rights in their operations, and how can such data be identified?
- How can we reliably evaluate corporate processes such as human rights impact assessments (HRIA) or human rights due diligence (HRDD) that address human rights issues?
- How can we assess how human rights issues are effectively communicated to businesses and manager so that they become embedded in their practices?
- How to measure the effectiveness of measures taken by business enterprises to address human rights problems be assessed? Or to measure a business's changes of 'mindset' corporate culture with respect to human rights?
- How to take account of an alleged cultural embeddedness of human rights in analysis of BHR, for example in relation to supply chains and home states of multinational enterprises?
- Prospects and limits of risk management based approaches to human rights due diligence?
- How does BHR influence the management of stakeholder relations (for example, inspiration from methods from human rights based development, or from human rights to participation in decision-making and free, prior and informed consent)?
- How can investors with ethical or socially responsible investment policies assess human rights impacts of their investments in accordance with the OECD's due diligence requirements?

- To which extent are human rights embedded in investment decisions? Do investors take into account measurement tools such as the "Corporate Human Rights Benchmark" (CHRB)? How can we measure the influence of investor decisions on corporate practice?

Analysing the mutual influence between corporate activity, social expectations, and the development of law, so-called "soft law" and other normative frameworks

- How could and does jurisprudence on BHR take into account non-judicial remedies and operational level remedies?
- Are there any cultural specificities with regard to appropriate remedy? How do we identify and assess such specificities, and how to take account of them in analysis of the human rights appropriateness of remedy?
- How to assess the mutual influence between emergent soft and hard regulatory schemes on BHR and other transnational business governance instruments that relate to human rights?
- How can business ethics complement the emergent soft and hard regulatory schemes on BHR to support their influence on corporate practices?
- What is the relationship between operational risk management standard, human rights due diligence under the UNGP or OECD Guidelines for MNEs and legal standards of care?
- How can international law research benefit from or develop methodology based on emergent interdisciplinary BHR research?

Guidelines for submission

Full-length manuscripts are due by **21 August 2017** at the latest. Articles should range between 6,000 and 8,000 words including footnotes and should conform to NJHR's style and referencing guidelines (OSCOLA Law style). Authors can submit papers online, using the Editorial Manager website or by sending the manuscript in MS Word format directly to hr-journal@nchr.uio.no

Articles judged suitable for consideration will be reviewed in a double blind peer review process. The guest authors plan to hold a paper development workshop in June 2017 (details to follow on the journal's website www.jus.uio.no/smr/english/research/njhr/ from around mid-February 2017). For further questions or inquiries please contact hr-journal@nchr.uio.no .

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