HOW DEMANDING SHOULD HUMAN RIGHTS BE?
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

13-14 OCTOBER 2017
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
HARRIS HALL, ROOM 108, EVANSTON CAMPUS

WITH
KAREN J. ALTER (Northwestern University)
ELIZABETH ASHFORD (University of St. Andrew’s)
SAMANTHA BESSON (University of Fribourg)
EVA BREMS (University of Ghent)
JAMES CAVALARO (Stanford University, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights)
JEAN COHEN (Columbia University)
ADAM ETINSON (University of St. Andrew’s)
ANDREAS FOLLESDAL (University of Oslo)
PABLO GILABERT (Concordia University)
DIETER GRIMM (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin & Yale University, former Constitutional Court Judge)
TURKULER ISIKSEL (Columbia University)
CRISTINA LAFONT (Organizer, Northwestern University)
GEORGE LETSAS (University College, London)
CHRISTOPHER McCRUDDEN (Queen’s University, Belfast & Michigan University)
JAMES W. NICKEL (Miami University)
FRANÇOISE TULKENS (Catholic University of Louvain, former judge at European Court of Human Rights)

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PLURICOURTS, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO
UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

For more information, please contact Sarah Peters at sarah.mcginley@northwestern.edu.
PROGRAM

13 OCTOBER 2017

9.30–10.00: OPENING REMARKS
CRISTINA LAFONT, SAMANTHA BESSON, & KAREN J. ALTER

10.00–12.00: HUMAN RIGHTS MINIMALISM: NOTIONS & DELINEATIONS
Chair: ANDREW KOPPELMAN
ADAM ETINSON, “When Less is More? Minimalism and Determinacy in Human Rights”
Commentator: JAMES NICKEL
JAMES NICKEL, “Minimalism versus Maximalism: On the Appropriate Scale and Ambition of the International Human Rights Movement”
Commentator: GEORGE LETSAS
GEORGE LETSAS, “Minimalism vs Maximalism about Human Rights: A False Dilemma?”
Commentator: ADAM ETINSON

12.00–13.00: LUNCH BREAK

13.00–15.00: MINIMALISM & HUMAN RIGHTS’ JUSTIFICATIONS
Chair: SAMANTHA BESSON
ELIZABETH ASHFORD, “The Demands Imposed by the Rights to Have Rights”
Commentator: SHMULIK NILI
PABLO GILABERT, “Minimalist and Expansive Views of Human Rights: Dignity and the Arc of Humanist Justice”
Commentator: ELIZABETH ASHFORD
Commentator: PABLO GILABERT

15.00–15.30: COFFEE BREAK

15.30–17.30: MINIMALISM & HUMAN RIGHT-HOLDERS AND DUTY-BEARERS
Chair: KAREN J. ALTER
Commentator: ANDREAS FOLLESDAL
JEAN COHEN, “The Uses and Limits of Legalism: Minimalist and Maximalist Approaches”
Commentator: CRISTINA LAFONT
TURKULER ISIKSEL, “Corporate Human Rights Claims under the ECHR”
Commentator: FRANÇOISE TULKENS

19.00: DINNER

14 OCTOBER 2017

9.30–11.30: MINIMALIST & HUMAN RIGHTS’ TYPES
Chair: ANDREAS FOLLESDAL
DIETER GRIMM, “The Functions of Fundamental Rights Beyond the State (in German)
Commentator/Summary: SAMANTHA BESSON
FRANÇOISE TULKENS, “Maximalists vs. Minimalists and Activism vs. Restraint: A Practical Experience of these (False) Dilemmas at the European Court of Human Rights”
Commentator: TURKULER ISIKSEL
JAMES CAVALARO, “The Relationship between International Criminal Law and International Human Rights Law”
Commentator: KAREN J. ALTER

11.30–13.00: LUNCH BREAK

13.00–15.00: MINIMALISM & HUMAN RIGHTS’ SOURCES
Chair: CRISTINA LAFONT
CHRISTOPHER MCCRUDDEN, “Towards a Normative Theory of Comparative Human Rights Law”
Commentator: EVA BREMS
SAMANTHA BESSON, “How Common should International Human Rights Be? The Authority of Comparative Human Rights Law”
Commentator: CHRISTOPHER MCCRUDDEN
EVA BREMS, “Minimum and Maximum Approaches in an Integrated Human Rights Framework”
Commentator: DIETER GRIMM
KAREN J. ALTER, “The Contested Authority of International Law and the Future of International Law”
Commentator: JAMES CAVALARO

15.00–15.30: COFFEE BREAK

15.30–16.30: GENERAL DISCUSSION
Chair: KAREN J. ALTER

16.30–17.00: CONCLUDING REMARKS
CRISTINA LAFONT, SAMANTHA BESSON, & KAREN J. ALTER

19.00: DINNER