



HRJust

Human Rights Justification

Workshop in Taipei,
6-7 May, 2024

www.hrjust.net





HRJust AND METHOD



HRJust AND THEORY

will develop a theoretical framework for understanding States use of human rights to justify their actions and decisions.



HRJust AND MIGRATION

will explore how States affected by geopolitical events and the way human rights are used to justify policies and decisions concerning migration.



HRJust AND COVID

will examine how Sweden, Finland and Taiwan related to Human Rights frameworks when describing and explaining their Covid strategies and policies.



HRJust AND CLIMATE

will explore the role of the EU as a global actor in the field of climate change and its extraterritoriality to be synthesised together with a geopolitical lens and a gender and intersectionality.



HRJust AND EMPIRICAL CROSS-CUTTING

will analyze and synthesize all the empirical data collected by the three thematic Work Packages. The data will be evaluated through the lenses of sociology, anthropology and law.

Workshop on HRJust: Methods and Legal Theories, hosted by Institutum Inrisprudentiae Academia Sinica, May 6-7

The workshop took place from Monday to Tuesday, May 6-7, 2024, in Taipei, Taiwan.

The two-day workshop brought together 14 researchers from Academia Sinica (IIAS), National Cheng-Kung University (NCKU), National Taiwan University (NTU), Stockholm University (SU), and University of Gothenburg (UGOT), including team members in Work Package 2, Work Package 4, and Work Package 5. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the HRJust project's main objectives across Working Packages, such as to develop suggestions for the EU-Third Countries policy, to build the HRJust method and legal theory through empirical data and research in Taiwan, India, and Sweden, and to engage with Taiwan civil society, and human rights defenders.



The 6th of May

Professor Maria Grahn-Farley opened the workshop by discussing how States used human rights as an instrument to justify and defend their actions and decisions at both inter- and intra-state levels. Following her presentation, team members further discussed methods and methodologies in HRJust, including how the government leaders and geopolitical factors influence the utilization or non-utilization of human rights justifications by States.

To provide suggestions on the policies for EU relations with Third Countries and on how the EU can promote human rights in the face of the States using human rights justification in the post-pandemic era and migration issues, the workshop also included a breakout session. Work Package 4 & Work Package 2 focused on prevention measures against COVID-19 and (the lacking of) data protection regulation, and Work Package 5 & Work Package 2 focused on migration and asylum seekers issues.

In addition, IIAS invited two Taiwanese NGOs, the Taiwan International Worker's Association (TIWA) and the Taiwan Hong Kong Association, to present at the workshop. Both NGOs are dedicated to migration issues in Taiwan. They provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the living conditions and plights faced by migrant workers and Hongkongers in Taiwan. This exchange of ideas and knowledge stimulated participants to compare and contrast Taiwan's example with the government's legitimizing rhetoric for their migration policies in Sweden and India.

The 7th of May

IIAS and the National Taiwan Museum (NTM) co-hosted the Taipei city history walking tour, followed by a discussion to reflect on human rights outreach. The tour allowed the participants to understand how the multiple regime transitions since the late 18th century have impacted the city's landscape and its inhabitants. The tour also covers contemporary human rights struggles, including those of the indigenous people and sexual minorities. Taiwan's transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one in the 1990s provided a unique context for discussing human rights issues and the impact of geopolitics.

The two-day workshop in Taiwan was a unique opportunity for cross-WP team members to have a deepened conversation and interaction. Also, worth mentioning is that the workshop took place immediately following the gOv Summit 2024. Co-hosted by IIAS in 2024, the gOv Summit is a biennial gathering held by the grassroots civic tech community. IIAS timed the workshop to allow HRJust researchers to gain insight on the working and activities of the Taiwan civic tech community, which is an important and peculiar part of the Taiwan civil society. Researchers who were able to attend the Summit shared their observations with the group during the workshop, including the variety of topics covered by the event, the gOv community's unique culture, and the close interactions between the gOv community with local and international civil society. By offering multiple and detailed contexts, the HRJust workshop in Taipei stimulated discussions and ideas exchange on how to defend and revitalize democracy across countries.





INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PRAGUE



www.hrjust.net

