



**TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DRESDEN**

## 4th International Summer School 2025 in Dresden

August 25 – August 29, 2025

## Human Rights in Theory and Practice:

## Navigating Change – Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights

### Welcome

We are delighted to invite you to the fourth edition of the International Summer School “Human Rights in Theory and Practice,” which will take place from August 25 to August 29, 2025 and will address highly relevant and pressing issues in the field of human rights. We are also thrilled to welcome you to Dresden, the capital of Saxony. Known as the “Florence on the Elbe,” Dresden is renowned for its unique cultural offerings. The city is surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, including the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, famously captured in the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich. Thus, you can look forward to a perfect blend of excellent academic discussions, cultural richness, and stunning natural scenery.

### Summer School Overview

In today's world, entirely new developments are emerging, which pose unprecedented threats to individuals, such as the accelerating effects of climate change, emerging public health threats despite medical improvement or the unwarranted use of artificial intelligence (AI). When the International Bill of Human Rights was drafted, these developments were unforeseen, and no specific treaties were adopted containing corresponding norms to address these human rights challenges. This becomes problematic because, in the worst case, our traditional understanding of human rights norms may no longer adequately address new realities, creating a conflict between evolving societal needs and the existing normative content.

The increasing legislative inactivity of states in this regard places a greater burden on human rights courts leading to our main question: to what extent can human rights courts and treaty bodies respond to factual change by (re-)interpreting existing human rights norms to address new challenges?

The program will leverage modern formats such as coffee talks and interactive components, promoting an interdisciplinary approach and drawing on the expertise of both practitioners and academics. Additionally, a rich evening program will offer opportunities for relaxation, ensuring both intellectual and personal well-being.

### Contact

#### Postal address

Center for International Studies (ZIS)  
TU Dresden  
01062 Dresden

#### Venue

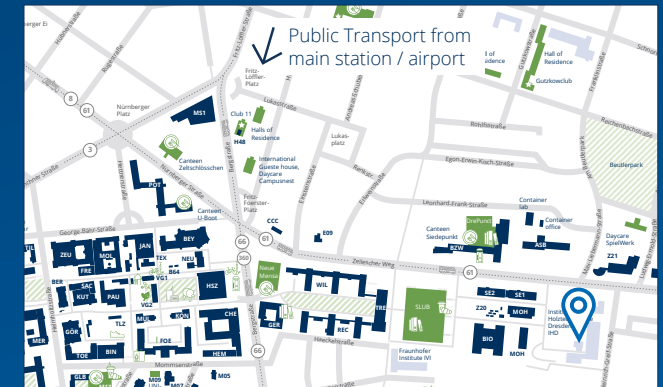
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## Participation

All interested advanced students of international law, political science, international relations, and related fields are welcome to participate, provided they are willing to thoroughly engage with the topics throughout the Summer School. Prior knowledge of human rights is an advantage but not required.

## Registration

Registration is now open via the [application form](#). Once your application has been processed, we will inform you via email and provide further details shortly thereafter. If you are unable to register via our registration form, please contact us via our official [Summer School email address](#).

## Venue

The Summer School will take place at TU Dresden. In line with the theme of our Summer School – the future of human rights –, we will be hosting it in the [futuristic-looking conference room](#) of the [Institut für Holztechnik Dresden: Zellescher Weg 24, 01217 Dresden](#).

## Accommodation and Arrival

Accommodation and Arrival is not provided and must be arranged by each participant. We will share recommendations for affordable lodging after the registration phase is complete. We are also pleased to assist with individual travel planning.

## Certificate

Upon participation and successful completion of the Summer School, in-person participants will be awarded a certificate worth 5 ECTS, while online participants will receive a certificate worth 3 ECTS. This includes the successful completion of the final examination. Please ensure you verify in advance whether the ECTS credits will be recognized by your home university.

## Fee

The participation fee is €200 for in-person attendees and €50 for online participants. The in-person fee includes lunch, coffee, refreshments and snacks, the rich evening program as well as city tours and excursions. There will also be the opportunity of a travel grant. Unfortunately, advance payments are not possible, so even if the grant is approved, the funds will only be disbursed after submitting the respective receipts.

## Organisation Team

The International Summer School series is jointly organized by Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger and Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić (TU Dresden, Center for International Studies), along with Prof. Dr. Stephanie Schiedermaier and Prof. Dr. Mattias Wendel (Leipzig University), and is supported by DRESDEN-concept – research alliance TU Dresden.

Further information by scanning the QR code or via the link:

[tud.link/qs7fhf](https://tud.link/qs7fhf)





	Monday, August 25	Tuesday, August 26	Wednesday, August 27	Thursday, August 28	Friday, August 29
Time	From Factual Change to Norm Change in the International Human Rights System	Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Environmental Challenges to Human Rights	Emerging Public Health Threats Amidst and Despite Medical Improvement	The Peak of Technology: Can Human Rights Keep Pace with AI Developments?	Interactive Conference
09:00 - 10:30	9:00 - 10:00 Initial registration and coffee	Coffee Talk Generational Conflicts in Climate Protection Policies? – New Developments in the Climate Protection-Human Rights Nexus	Coffee Talk Scrutinizing the Right to Health: How far do State Obligations go?	Coffee Talk Too Fast to Understand – a Human Right to “Unblackboxing”?	Begin at 09:30 Conference Group work International Law Commission and States Representatives Secretariat: Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić
	10:00 - 10:30 Welcome  Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić	Prof. Dr. Aoife Nolan (tbc) Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs	Prof. Dr. Mette Hartlev (tbc) Prof. Dr. Anna Kühne	Dr. Jan Hořeňovský Prof. Dr. Roberto Calandra	
10:45 - 12:15	Introductory Lecture  Factual Change and Human Rights: Emergence of New Challenges and the Basics of Norm Change   Prof. Dr. Geir Ulfstein	Lecture  Contamination and Pollution of the Environment: Linking Environmental and Human Rights Law – the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment  Deniz Gedik	Lecture  Accelerating Lifestyle Diseases: Matter of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living?   Dr. Natalie Abrokwa	Lecture  AI and Algorithmic Discrimination: The Utilization of Facial Recognition Technologies   Natalia Menéndez González	
12:15 - 13.45	Lunch				
13:45 - 15:00	Introductory Lecture  International Human Rights Interpretation: From Static to Dynamic, Toward Judge-Made Law by Judicial Activism?   Dr. Kacper Zajac	Lecture  Sinking Countries and the Right to Return: Rethinking Nationality in the Face of Fundamental Human Rights Protection  Prof. Dr. Ian Fry	Lecture  Your Property, My Health: Vaccines, Medication, and the Scope of the Right to Intellectual Property  Prof. Dr. Kshitij Kumar Singh	Lecture  Artistic Deepfakes of Decision Makers and Politicians: Covered by the Freedom of Expression?  Dr. Felipe Romero Moreno	Conference  Presentation of findings and solutions
15:30 - 16:45	Interdisciplinary Talk  Whither Humanity in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges of New Developments Prof. Dr. Veronika Bílková David Griffiths Paul-Joël Kamtchang	Lecture  Convergence of Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Rights: Navigating Constraints in Ensuring the Right to Adequate Housing  Dr. Karen Oliveira Da Costa	Lecture  Data Collection and the Human Genome: Stigmatization Based on Health-Related Data – a Privacy or Health Issue?  Dr. James Hazel	Lecture  Freedom of Thought and AI: Emerging Challenges of Neurotechnology  Nora Hertz	15:15 – 15:30 Wrap-up and Formal Farewell   Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger Prof. Dr. Ajla Škrbić
Div.	19:30 – Open End  A leisurely stroll through Dresden Neustadt and its well-known establishments   Albertplatz	18:30 - 20:00 Public Evening Event  Migration as a New “Method of Warfare ”: Legal Challenges for Individual Human Rights and the Demise of the Right to Asylum  Frauenkirche Dresden	19:00 – Open End  Midway celebration, frisbee and sunset with a fantastic view of Dresden Altstadt  Elbwiesen (Grassland on the River Elbe)	18:00 – 19:00  Rushed city trip by locals Altmarkt  19:00 - 22:00 Steamboat trip on the Elbe through Dresden and the surrounding area	16:30 – 18:00 Informal Farewell: Special Exhibition: "The Air We Share" with numerous works of art and interactive stations  Deutsches Hygienemuseum (German Hygiene Museum Dresden)