



September 2023

## Minerva Center for Human Rights at Tel Aviv University

[Activity Report: 2022 – 2023](#)

### International Conferences

#### **70 Years of Holocaust Compensation and Restitution – International Conference**

November 14–16, 2022

On September 10, 1952, historical agreements were signed in Luxembourg between the government of Israel, the Conference on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany, and the government of West Germany for the provision of reparations and compensations. To mark the event and within the framework of an international research group on the topic, the Conference dealt with topics relating to the agreement and its various past and present implications, such as social, diplomatic, legal, and economic aspects. The Conference was organized jointly by the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University, the Claims Conference, Yad Vashem and Minerva Center for Human Rights at Tel Aviv University.

The full program can be found [here](#)

#### **Uses and Abuses of History: from Post-WWII Trials to the Russia's War in Ukraine**

December 4-5, 2022

The current Russian war in Ukraine reveals how Russian state propaganda exploits variants of the Soviet narrative and its constructed memory of World War II and the Holocaust to justify its military aggression. This provokes a discussion of the role the Holocaust, the "Great Patriotic War", and subsequent trials have in nation-building, international law, and memory politics in Russia and in the former Socialist Bloc more broadly. Moreover, current events demonstrate how law is exploited as a tool for narrating history and shaping national identity in the Soviet and post-Soviet space. This conference generated an opportunity to review and redefine some categories in the relationship between history, international law and memory in Eastern Europe, in an interdisciplinary context.



מרכז מינרבה לזכויות האדם  
Minerva Center for Human Rights  
مركز مينيرفا لحقوق الإنسان

הפקולטה למשפטים ע"ש בוכמן  
אוניברסיטת תל אביב



Organizers: Leora Bilsky, Dina Moyal and Olga Kartashova

Presented topics included:

**Oleksiy Kresin** (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine/University of Lausanne)

International legal aspects of Russia's war against Ukraine

**Patrycja Grzebyk** (University of Warsaw)

"Genocide in the East-European Style"

**Vanessa Voisin** (Università di Bologna, DiSCI)

Law and war-narrative in the Soviet Union, 1942-1946: Collaboration as (quiet) betrayal to (loud) war crimes

**Anton Weiss-Wendt** (Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies)

Self-Righteous Opportunism:

Soviet Genocide Polemics vs. Russian Holocaust Discourse

**Oleksandr Melnyk** (University of Alberta)

Book presentation *World War II as an Identity Project* (2022)

The full program can be found [here](#)

Recording: [December 4](#) and [December 5](#)

**Critical Performance On-Site**

May 1-3, 2023

Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation in collaboration with the Department of Theatre Arts.

Presented topics included:

Performing Revolution On-Site: from the streets to mother earth [artistic activism in Portugal in the 1970s.] / Cláudia Madeira (ICNOVA NOVA FCSH) and Fernando Matos Oliveira (CEIS20 - University of Coimbra)

On Intellectual Sites of Performance in East and Central Europe / Katalin Cseh-Varga (Vienna) and Kornelia Deres (Budapest)

Re-imagining changing critical realities in the 1990s in Switzerland / Sabine Gebhardt Fink (Lucerne University)



The “islands of positive deviation“: sites of performative artistic strategies in former Czechoslovakia in the 1970s / Andrea Bátorová (Institute of History of Art, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia)

## **Transitional Justice beyond the State: Non-State Actors as Object and Agents in Transitional Justice Processes**

June 14-15, 2023

Jerusalem

The Minerva Centers for Human Rights at Tel-Aviv University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem initiated and organized an international conference on non-state actors in transitional justice processes, examining their rising importance and diverse roles as objects and as agents in transitional justice interventions.

Prof. Kieran McEvoy of the Queen’s University Belfast School of Law and Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, a world-renowned scholar and practitioner in the field, presented the Conference Keynote Lecture.

The conference engaged in several major questions: What are the relevant international human rights standards? How to address the limitations of the international law framework in relation to non-state actors? What is the repertoire of mechanisms, and what new practices, technologies and methods can be developed in these cases and in social and cultural rather than legal settings? How to navigate the disparate needs and positions of victims? How to determine the responsibility of non-state actors without minimizing that of the state? What are the conflicts and interactions between the goals and practices of state and non-state actors? When does inaction turn into complicity in abuses? What lessons can be identified from past and ongoing interventions in the intersections between state institutions and non-state actors?

The full program can be found [here](#).

A **one-day workshop**, focusing on **local urban case studies of non-state actors in transitional justice contexts, with an emphasis on Jerusalem**, followed the conference.

The workshop brought together local scholars, activists, and civil society organizations aiming to explore the role of community-based work, civic agency, municipal governance and civic infrastructures in facilitating acts of accountability and repair for just futures. The workshop was held at the University of Notre Dame at Tantur, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Minerva Center’s Transitional Justice Postdoctoral Fellows – Dr. Hagit Keysar, Dr. Michal Huss, and Dr. Uri Ansenberg – organized this workshop.



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The full program can be found [here](#).

## The Opening of the Travelling Exhibition:

### The Rosenberg – The German Federal Ministry of Justice in the shadow of the Nazi Past

The exhibition opening took place at the Buchmann Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University on February 20, 2023, **in presence of Dr. Marco Buschmann, German Federal Minister of Justice**. Greetings were given by Prof. Yishai Blank, Dean, Buchmann Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Yoram Danziger, Justice (ret.) of the Supreme Court of Israel. The introductory lecture was held by Prof. Roni Stauber, Director of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University.

An important question posed for the Federal Republic of Germany and its Ministry of Justice upon the republic's establishment in 1949 was how to address the horrors of the Nazi era. In 2012, the Ministry tasked an Independent Academic Commission with investigating the Justice Ministry's national-socialist past during the early years of the newly founded Federal Republic of Germany. The Commission was given unrestricted access to the Ministry's files. In 2016/17, the Commission published its concluding report in a book entitled "The Rosenberg Files" - so named because following World War II the Ministry's offices were located to the Rosenberg Castle in Bonn. The report documents how numerous members of the Ministry's executive staff had been involved in the power apparatus of the "Third Reich": Of the 170 lawyers who held senior positions in the Ministry between 1949 and 1973, 90 had been members of the Nazi Party and 34 had been members of the SA. This had far-reaching consequences with regard to the Federal Republic's dealing with the aftermath of Nazism: Nazi laws were amended in a superficial manner only, there was ongoing discrimination against former victims, and the prosecution of Nazi criminals was thwarted. However, today, the German Federal Ministry of Justice is facing up to its history. The report results have been made available to a wider audience with an illuminating and memorable travelling exhibition, which seeks to raise awareness among a large audience of the historical injustice that took place post World War II at the hands of the Ministry itself. It had been exhibited in Germany, Poland and the USA and is now exhibiting for the first time in Israel. This important exhibition invites the legal community and the public at large to reflect about the role of law and lawyers in a totalitarian regime, a topic that has been made urgent in the current wave of democratic backsliding and the rise of 'authoritarian legalism' around the globe, and in Israel.

The exhibition was coordinated by the Minerva Center for Human Rights and could be visited at the Buchmann Faculty of Law & the David J. Light Law Library at Tel Aviv University, Trubowicz Building from February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, through May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

[Invitation](#)

[Recording](#)



## Guest Lectures

**Prof. Bryan Garsten** (Yale University)

### **The Liberalism of Refuge**

November 21, 2022

Bryan Garsten is Professor of Political Science and the Humanities, and Chair of the Humanities Program at Yale University. He is the author of *Saving Persuasion: A Defense of Rhetoric and Judgment* (Harvard University Press, 2006) as well as articles on political rhetoric and deliberation, the meaning of representative government, the relationship of politics and religion, and the place of emotions in political life. Garsten is currently completing a book titled *The Heart of a Heartless World* that examines the ethical, political and religious core of early nineteenth century liberalism in the United States and France. He has also edited *Rousseau, the Enlightenment, and Their Legacies*, a collection of essays by the Rousseau scholar Robert Wokler (Princeton University Press, 2012). His writings have won various awards, including the First Book Prize of the Foundations of Political Theory section of the American Political Science Association.

## Poster

**Prof. Armin von Bogdandy** (Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg)

### **Discussing Carl Schmitt's European Jurisprudence**

December 27, 2022

Armin von Bogdandy is director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg and Professor for Public Law at the University in Frankfurt/Main. He graduated in law and philosophy before earning a Ph.D. in Freiburg (1988) and qualifying as a professor at the FU Berlin (1996). He has been President of the OECD Nuclear Energy Tribunal as well as a member of the German Science Council (*Wissenschaftsrat*) and the Scientific Committee of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; He has held visiting positions at the New York University School of Law, the European University Institute, the Xiamen Academy of International Law, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, among others. He specializes in the general features of public law, with a focus on its structural changes, be they theoretical, doctrinal, or practical.

Prof. Bogdandy gave a masterclass to graduate students in Meitar with the participation of faculty members.

## Poster



**Prof. Robert Post** (Sterling Professor of Law, Yale Law School)

### **Freedom of Speech in Times of Democratic Crises: The Unfortunate Consequences of a Misguided Free Speech Principle**

May 9, 2023

Professor Post is a world-renowned scholar, specializing in constitutional law and particularly in freedom of expression and academic freedom.

He was a law professor at the University of California Law School, and then joined Yale Law School, where he was Dean for 8 years, from 2009 to 2017. He is a member of the American Law Institute and a fellow of both the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Following Post's presentation, Dr. Ofra Bloch (TAU) and Prof. Barak Medina (HUJI) gave short comments.

The talk was a collaboration of TAU Lab on Liberalism and Minerva center for Human Rights.

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[Recording](#)

**Prof. Ariel Dulitzky** (University of Texas at Austin)

### **Human Rights Lawyering under Populist Regimes**

May 10, 2023

Professor Ariel Dulitzky, a native of Argentina, is the Director of the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Texas Austin School of Law. He is a leading expert in the inter-American human rights system. In 2010 he was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and elected as its Chair-Rapporteur in 2013 (2013-2015). Prior to joining the University of Texas, he was Assistant Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In addition to his extensive work at the UN and in the State of Texas, Dulitzky headed the litigation of more than 100 cases before the Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

In this talk, Dulitzky shared his experience in human rights litigation in the United States under the Trump administration and in Latin America, discussing the challenges, dilemmas and strategies of human rights lawyers working against populist governments. The presentation was followed by a discussion with human rights lawyers and activists, clinical lawyers, and other members of the legal community about challenges they themselves face in contemporary Israel.

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**Prof. Roberto Gargarella** (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

### **Contemporary Approaches on the Tension between Constitutionalism and Democracy**

May 28, 2023

Roberto Gargarella is a professor of Constitutional Theory and Political Philosophy at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. He published numerous books and articles, including his latest "The Law as a Conversation Among Equals" (Cambridge U.P. 2022).

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### Book Events

**Menachem Mautner [in Hebrew]**

"The Place 2060"

(Arabic version of the book: "A Futuristic Middle Eastern Story")

November 22, 2022

Discussants: Natalie Davidson, Manar Machoul, Luay Watad

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**Nomi M. Stolzenberg** (USC Gould School of Law) **and David N. Myers** (UCLA, History)

"American Shtetl: How did a Hasidic Municipality Take Rise in the United States?"

May 10, 2023

In collaboration with the Department of English and American Studies.

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## Seminars and Symposia (Hebrew)

### **Technology and Decolonization Lecture Series**

Moderator: Dr. Hagit Keysar (Minerva Post-Doctorate fellow)

This series was part of the Minerva Center Transitional Justice program, organized by Hagit Keysar, our post-doc of this year. Each meeting dealt with a different space, where digital transformation aims to redefine the modes of knowledge production and its institutions: the museum and the archive, aiming to challenge the prevailing tendency to mediate the digital transformation as a technological and universal process based on transparency, knowledge sharing and participation, and to expose the politics and power relations embedded in the technology itself.

#### **The Museum**

November 28, 2022

Discussants: Rellie de Vries, Ofri Cnaani, Tsila Hassin

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#### **The Archive**

December 28, 2022

Discussants: Stefan Litt, Assaf Bartov, Noa Hysler-Rubin

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#### **Identity politics: Where to?**

#### **Identities in Society, Culture and Law**

January 10, 2023

This event discussed the growing criticism of identity politics, both in the Academia and the public. The guest lecturer was renowned artist Roeen Rosen, who discussed his two art works: "To Pretend in Truth" – introductory lyrics to Justine Frank and the short film "Two Women and a Man". The talk was followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Hila Shamir (TAU), Mr. Luay Watad (TAU) and Dr. Lihi Yona (Haifa University)

Respondent: Leora Bilsky





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## **The Annual conference of the Israeli Association of Public Law**

January 12-14, 2023 (Haifa)

This year's conference discussed the important challenges for law and human rights under current developments. The opening remarks were given by the Chief Justice of the Israel Supreme Court, Esther Hayut and the current Attorney General of Israel, Gali Baharav-Miara.

## **Who Needs the Archive and Why?**

### **Archives for Human Rights and Social Change Organizations**

(In cooperation with Minerva Institute for German History)

January 19, 2023

In recent years, awareness of the importance of organizational and community archives has increased in civil society. Activists in human rights and social change organizations, archivists and historians participated in the workshop. The workshop dealt with the question of why archives are needed, and what can be done to establish and maintain them. Human rights organizations accumulate a great deal of knowledge in the course of their activities, but this knowledge and the activity itself disappear in the absence of documentation. Recognition of the importance of archives for human rights organizations and social-change movements and the challenges they pose stood at the center of the workshop. Participants discussed the public importance such archives have for human rights organizations and for the public at large.

Participants: Guy Shalev (doctors for human rights), Liat Kozma (HUJI), Gadi Elgazi (TAU), Michal Henkin, Larisa Sbitkind and Shai Lavie (Israeli Association for Archives and Information). The workshop included a round table with representatives from the Public Committee Against Torture, Doctors for Human Rights, and AKEVOT – a research institute for the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

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## **'Trans' in Sport**

May 1, 2023



Moderator: Ido Katri

The discussion around the participation of transgender people in competitive sports – a traditionally sex-segregated institution – particularly in football, was held by Sapir Berman and Maayan Sudai.

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### **Another Sex: LGBTQ community and the threats of the law reform in Israel**

June 19, 2023

Moderator: Aeyal Gross

"An Other Sex" – the TAU annual LGBTQ Studies conference took place in June, after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

The conference's focus was the threats to the LGBT community from the constitutional changes proposed by the Israeli government, and the community's role in the ongoing protests. A dedicated panel included members of various groups participating (or not participating) in the protests and another panel addressed the risk to the community in detail. In addition, one panel introduced two research institutions working within the LGBT community conducting activist research meant to serve LGBT groups.

As in previous years, one panel was dedicated to the award of the Zafrir scholarship given to students conducting research on transgender issues.

The conference was well attended and involved participants from academia and from the community offering a timely discussion of critical issues.

It was organized in cooperation with the Democracy Program of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, LGBT and Queer Studies Forum and NCJW supported Women's and Gender Studies Program at TAU.

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### **Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

Dr. Hagit Keysar is the fourth fellow to receive a post-doctoral grant as part of the "Transitional Justice" project. During the fellowship period (July 2022 – July 2023) Hagit conducted her research on "the politics of digitization in relation to human rights and urban heritage". She created and led an academic reading group with the topics of digital colonialism, technology and decolonization, which convened 6-9 participants for five 3-hour meetings in Beit Liebling, TLV.

In order to develop collaboration and discussion with academic experts, artists and



technologists in fields related to her research, two public seminars were curated, taking place on November 28, and December 28, 2022. Each event included three guest speakers, an introduction talk by Dr. Keysar, and a Q&A session with students and audience. The seminars were held at the Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel Aviv University, and the Law Faculty, Tel Aviv University.

As a Minerva center fellow at Tel Aviv University, she has published a co-authored paper: Kaiser, K., I. Heumann, T. Nadim, H. Keysar, M. Peterson, M. Korun, and F. Berger. "Promises of mass digitization and the colonial realities of natural history collections." *Journal of Natural Science Collections* 11 (2023): 13-25.

### Academic Course

#### **Nazi Art Looting and Provenance Research**

Minerva Center in collaboration with Bon University held this on-line course for Israeli and German students for the second time, during the Fall Semester, 2022.

Lecturers: Prof. Leora Bilsky, Prof. Mathias Weller. Academic convener: Mr. Eyal Dolev. Teaching Assistant: Shelly Pasternack.

Over 75 years have passed since the end of WWII and the issue of Nazi-looted art is still present and even growing. Museums and private owners worldwide and in Israel still hold artworks looted from Jews during the Holocaust which have not yet been restituted. In 1998 the Washington Conference set up principles for the restitution of artworks lost during the years 1933-1945. The course reviewed these principles and how they are implemented (or not) in several European countries. The course set up the theoretical basis as well as the practical way in which the art trade, the legal system and claimants operate.

Each year the collaboration culminates in an international conference concerning "Restitution Dialogues" that places Nazi-looted art in comparative perspectives. This year, the on-line conference was entitled "**The Restitution Dialogue: [Exploring the Vatican Archives](#)**". The Vatican Archives in Rome house tens of thousands of indigenous items, many from Canada. The conference explored the history of the Vatican collection and located that history in the larger context of debates and practices concerning cultural loss, transfer, and return.

Conveners:

**Alexander Herman**, Director, Institute of Art & Law

**Matthias Weller**, Professor for Civil Law, Art and Cultural Property Law, University of Bonn

**Mayo Moran**, Provost & Vice-Chancellor, Trinity College, Professor of Law, University of Toronto



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**Leora Bilsky**, Professor of Law and Head of Minerva Center for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University

#### Presenters:

**Gloria Bell**, Assistant Professor, Art History & Communication Studies, McGill University

**Jennifer Orange**, Assistant Professor, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Jacquetta Swift**, Repatriation Manager at the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.

**Lou-Ann Neel**, Kwakwaka'wakw artist

#### **Transitional Justice: A Material Perspective**

Lecturers: Leora Bilsky, Tamar Luster (Meitar graduate JSD student)

The field of Transitional Justice focuses on the processes of political transition from an autocratic regime to a democratic regime and from conflict situations to reconciliation and peace. It offers a range of tools and institutions to support the complex dealing with large-scale historical injustices: truth commissions, prosecution in international and local tribunals, alongside amnesties, constitutional reforms, apologies and other measures. In recent years, the discussion of material aspects of transitional justice has been increasing. Women all over the world are fighting to ensure material justice and subsistence for victims of armed conflicts. An African American reparations movement struggles to acknowledge the lingering effects of slavery. A global movement is fighting for the decolonization of museum collections in Europe. Environmental justice organizations are calling for a rethinking of the climate crisis, and the call to hold corporations accountable is growing stronger. At the same time, material aspects continue to be marginalized in the field of transitional justice. This seminar focuses on these materials aspects of transitional justice and explores their challenges for human rights. The students conducted independent research and authored short research papers.

#### Visiting Scholars

##### **PhD Candidate (NYU) Olga Kartashova**

Olga Kartashova is a PhD candidate in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University and a visiting scholar at TAU between October 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023. Her dissertation, with the preliminary title "Polish Law and Nazi Camps: Investigation,



Justice, and Memory, 1944-1950”, explores how Polish officials discovered, investigated, and put on trial Nazi camps after the war. She focuses on the role of survivors, historians, and lawyers, in the building of the Holocaust knowledge basis that serves us often even today. Olga co-directed the research and discussion group "The Forgotten Roots of International Law" and the international conference "Uses and Abuses of History: from Post-WWII Trials to the Russia's War in Ukraine".

### **PhD Candidate (Seoul National University) Minju Kang**

Ms. Minju Kang works (May 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023) on her research project titled: “*Transnationalizing Law for Business and Human Rights: Corporations, Labor, Investors and Customers*”.

In the era of the world market, transnational business is almost a standard form of service and manufacturing. Corporations operate their business activities across borders. Moreover, labor forces move beyond borders. Investors and customers are also not restricted by state boundaries. Thus, when there are cases of rights abuse in the frameworks of business-related activities, the interests and benefits of the exploitation are transferred across borders. Meanwhile, laws rarely cross borders. They belong to each state or exist as contracts between states. This restriction causes the *governance gap* between and within countries. Even if an American company uses children as its labor force to manufacture t-shirts in Pakistan, it is generally a matter that will be covered under Pakistani labor laws. In a similar fashion, when a Thai worker is trafficked and forced to work in Israel, it is a matter that will be dealt with by Israeli immigration and criminal laws. However, we know that labor laws in repeatedly exploited countries, unlike their buyer countries, often fail to protect victims. Even within the countries, national laws and enforcement agencies are often not friendly to immigrants. Against the backdrop of this governance gap, the doctoral project aims to propose the role of law in constructing a global response and mechanism to human rights violations that occur in this transnational phenomenon of business, or *Business and Human Rights (BHR)*.

### **Dr. Marcin Mrowicki**

Dr. Marcin Mrowicki visited TAU (June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023) to discuss and work on his book project: “Strategic Nature, Dynamics and Impact of Judicial Resistance against Authoritarian Backsliding in Poland”.

The resistance by judges against an authoritarian power grab that often begins with the regime’s efforts to eliminate any form of judicial independence is both the key for the survival of democracy and an under-investigated subject in the civil resistance studies. The defiance of judges and their allies in Poland, starting from 2015, to defend democratic rule of law and independence of the judiciary against the authoritarian blitzkrieg of the “right and justice” ruling party has been unprecedented in its mobilization scale. The judges’ activism on the streets and in the courtrooms, the creativity of its acts of resistance, move the judicial culture towards a more public and



visible role of people's judges and its accomplishments. The judicial resistance in Poland hindered the regime's efforts to capture the judiciary, increased public awareness of the problem and expanded a Polish judicial struggle to the European legal and political levels in a way that placed the regime in an uneasy situation where one might see increasing judicial disobedience and loyalty shifting away from the regime's project to bend the judges to its will and in favor of the democratic/European rule of law defended by independent judiciary.

Dr. Marcin plans to visit the Minerva center again for an extended visit during 2023-2024 in order to develop a comparative research of Poland and Israel legal system's response to democratic back-sliding.

### CEDAW project – students research grants

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world. Prof. Dafna Hacker from TAU has been elected to the Committee and asked the Minerva Center for 4 research grants to law students that will enhance Minerva's internationalization special project.

The CEDAW treaty is a tool that helps women around the world to bring about change in their daily life. In countries that have ratified the treaty, CEDAW has proved invaluable in opposing the effects of discrimination, which include violence, poverty, and lack of legal protections, along with the denial of inheritance, property rights, and access to credit.

The students are encouraged to take an active part in the October 2023 meeting in Geneva. They will also take part in Minerva's activities year long.

Grants' receivers: Ronnie Shaked, Maya Reisin, Yuval Yitzhakov and Shany Stiller.

### Planned activities 2023 - 2024 (tentative plan)

**An Israeli-German symposium** is planned in October 2023, around the question: **Criminal Law as a Solution to Current Social Problems?**

Conveners: Elisa Hoven (Universität Leipzig), Thomas Weigend (University of Cologne), Hilla Shamir (TAU), Leora Bilsky (TAU).

Venue: German Embassy, Tel Aviv University.

In the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, liberals in many countries criticized an expansive concept of criminal law as needlessly curtailing individual liberty and as leading to more human suffering than social benefits. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the tide seems





to have turned. In a worldwide climate of fear, social turmoil and crisis, criminal laws are increasingly regarded as a bulwark against the destruction of social structures through the selfishness of individuals and groups. At the same time, criminal laws are no longer seen as a last resort but as a socially useful tool to bring about progress, for example, in gender equality and protecting minorities. Despite the differing legal traditions of Israel and Germany, the issue of a potentially changing role of criminal law poses itself in both countries. Comparing ideas and experiences thus promises not only to enhance an Israeli-German dialogue on a socially highly relevant matter, but also to bring about new insights that may be of use for policy makers and criminal justice officials in both countries.

Among confirmed participants: Reinhard Müller, Tatjana Hörnle, Milan Kuhli, Martin Böse, Eric Hilgendorf, Carsten Momsen, Johannes Kaspar, Dominik Brodowski, Michael Kubiciel, Viktoria Piekarska, Carsten Kusche, Johanna Hahn, Sven Großmann, Katharina Beckemper, Bernd Heinrich, Stefanie Kemme.

### **75 years to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

To commemorate 75 to the Human Rights Declaration we will hold a workshop for civil rights organizations to examine the internationalization of international law treaties in Israeli law (in collaboration with Minerva Jerusalem, the International Department of the Ministry of Justice, the 'Takana' program and civil society organizations) organized by Prof. Dafna Heker and Prof. Ruth Halperin Kadri.

### **Mini on-line conference in collaboration with Global Reparation research group of the Institute for Advanced Studies in HUJI celebrating 25 to the Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art**

Minerva will co-sponsor together with Safra in honor of a special volume published on the writings of former Chief Justice Yoram Danziger – **Human Dignity in German and Israeli Law** (estimated date March 2024)

Minerva, in collaboration with the Liberalism Laboratory, will host on October 9-10, Prof. Stephen Sawyer and Prof. Roman Zinigrad from the Sciences Po University, Paris for a workshop on "**Democracy, Regulation and the Administrative State**".

Initiator and organizer: Ofra Bloch.

Throughout the year Minerva will hold a number of **book events** on the topic of democracy and human rights:





The opening event will take place in the second week of October, where we will host Prof. Kim Lane Scheppele (Princeton University) who will talk about her book published in Hebrew "Despotism under the Protection of the Law" (initiator and organizer: Eyal Gross).

The annual Minerva lecture is planned to discuss the climate crisis and human rights.

An event in honor of the release of the special volume of Social and Cultural Law - **The Material Turn and the Law** (Editors Leora Bilski and Anat Rosenberg). Minerva supported an international workshop at Kibbutz Tzuba where researchers presented the developing field of 'material turn in the humanities and social sciences'. The participants in the workshop proposed studies for a special volume of Social and Cultural Law which seeks to promote research on the material turn and the law. The volume deals with a wide variety of issues that have a direct bearing on questions of human rights. Among other things, Minerva supported the translation of two chapters from Jane Bannet's book, 'Apolitical Ecology of Things'.

An event in honor of the book "**Hannah Arendt - Crises of the Republic**" (translated by Miki Zer, Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing) – Minerva supported the book's translation and the writing of a scientific introduction. We will hold a reading evening when the book is released.

### **Transitional Justice Program -**

This year, the annual Transitional Justice conference of Minerva Tel Aviv and Jerusalem will deal with the question of reparations in international and domestic law and will be held in cooperation with the research group on the subject at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University.

Minerva will continue to support two interdisciplinary courses dealing with transitional justice -

**Transitional Justice: A Material Perspective** (Leora Bilsky and Tamar Luster instructors) (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

### **Nazi Art Looting and Provenance Research**

Minerva Center in collaboration with Bon University on-line course, (3<sup>rd</sup> year)



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### Post-Doctoral Fellowship (under Transitional Justice Special Grant)

Dr. Adrian Krupnik is the fifth fellow to receive a post-doctoral grant as part of the "Transitional Justice" project.

This year, the Minerva Center for Human Rights together with the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University announced a call for applications for a postdoctoral fellowship for the 2023–2024 academic year for studies dealing with the participation and contribution of **Jews to the struggle for democracy, human rights, civil equality, and transitional justice**. Dr. Krupnik' research deals with the subject of **Jewish Participation in Argentine Democracy Building**. This research project aims to tell the story of Argentine Jews who participated in the political arena fighting for democracy since the 1960s.