



## The Annual Minerva Lecture on Human Rights

May 14, 2025

The Sonia and Edward Kossoy Conference Room (307)



Prof. Ariel E. Dulitzky
The University of Texas at Austin

## From Horror to Hope Lessons from Advocacy Against Enforced Disappearances

Gathering - 14:30 | Lecture - 14:45

Chair: Prof. Leora Bilsky, Minerva Center for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University

Respondents:

Prof. Yaël Ronen, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Dr. Eitan Diamond**, Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, Jerusalem

Disappearances have existed since time immemorial. The biblical story of Cain and Abel may be thought of as the first recorded disappearance in history. However, until the events that occurred in Southern America in 1970s, they were never understood as a single legal phenomenon. The lecture will explore the evolution of the legal concept of forced disappearance and its application to different political, economic, social, cultural, religious, and temporal contexts. We will focus on the transition from multiple social phenomena to a legal definition, analyze its implicit assumptions and make explicit the dilemmas, tensions, and hesitations that are generated by such framing.