



And the  
**ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS WORKING GROUP OF THE SCHOOL OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH**

**Call for Abstracts**

**Seminar on Enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
- A Critical Review  
11 November 2011, Rotterdam**

In recent years there has been an increase of litigation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESC), both at the domestic and international level. This seminar attempts to make sense of this recent expansion in a critical light: Have we done enough to protect these rights? Are ESC rights still lagging behind? Should we implement strategies like the adoption of indicators in judicial decisions? Or are these special strategies in the end counterproductive, as they imply that ESC rights are truly different, when we should be aiming for identical treatment of the two sets of rights? Furthermore, we must question whether a litigation-based approach is ultimately effective for the most the most desperate and not essentially a tool for more conservative interests. Finally, we must contrast the normative ideals of ESC rights with a political environment where austerity is the key word. How can the worth of ESC rights be understood in this context?

We are inviting broad participation of senior and junior researchers, to address these questions. The seminar is open to both legal and interdisciplinary scholarship. The main objective is to assess, and if necessary challenge, the aims and methods of ESC rights enforcement.

Those who wish to participate should send a 1 page, single spaced abstract of their proposed presentation to Roos van Bommel at [info@erasmusobservatoryonhealthlaw.nl](mailto:info@erasmusobservatoryonhealthlaw.nl) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2011. Bibliography may be attached on additional pages.

The abstracts will be subjected to a peer review process by senior researchers of the ESCR Working Group, senior practitioners or scholars from universities outside the school.

Those who are selected are expected to present their papers at the Seminar to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November at Erasmus University Rotterdam. They will be given 20 minutes to present, plus 10 minutes for questions. A subsequent publication of the Seminar papers will be considered.

Kind regards,

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