



Dear Sir or Madam

We are pleased to invite you to the annual seminar of the Working Group on Economic Social and Cultural Rights of the School of Human Rights Research:

The seminar will take place on the 11th of November 2011 at Erasmus University Rotterdam from 10h00 to 16h30. Professor Ida Koch (Lund) will participate as the keynote speaker.

In connection, we are opening a call for abstracts. When the abstract selection process is finished, we will update you with a list of participating speakers that will give a presentation at the Seminar.

The seminar's topic and theme is as follows:

Enforcement of Economic Social and Cultural Rights - A Critical Review

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.

If you wish to attend, please send email to Roos van Bommel at info@erasmusobservatoryonhealthlaw.nl.

Kind regards,

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