



Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA)

Human Rights, Development, and Capabilities Thematic Group

CALL FOR PAPERS/PANEL PROPOSALS

January 27, 2014

Dear HDCA Thematic Group members,

The HDCA Human Rights, Development, and Capabilities Thematic Group (HRTG) is reaching out to you to regarding our proposed activities for the HDCA 2014 conference, to be held in Athens, Greece, 2-5 September, 2014, hosted jointly by the University of Ioannina and the Bielefeld Centre for Education and Capability Research of Bielefeld University. As you know already, the theme of the conference this year is “Human Development in Times of Crisis: Renegotiating Social Justice.”

As co-chairs of the Human Rights Thematic Group, we propose to organize two activities for this year’s conference. First, we want **to submit one or two thematic panel sessions**. To this end, we invite you to submit individual proposals for papers or a panel session on topics that explore the link between capabilities and human rights from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives and/or focus on themes that are congruent with the general topic of renegotiating social justice in times of crisis. Some potential topics we hope to address include 1) mega sporting events (World Football Cup, the Olympic Games, etc.) and their impact on urban development and human well-being; 2) financial crisis, austerity measures, socio-economic policies for human development from a human rights perspective; 3) austerity and child development: impacts of stress, malnutrition and pollution on brain development.

These are just some ideas to foster your proposals. Do you have or would you be interested in writing a paper on these or similar topics? Are there other subtopics you would be interested in seeing discussed in these panels? After we hear from you, we hope to submit panel proposals on behalf of the Human Rights Thematic Group. If you would like us to consider your paper for one of these panels or suggest a complete panel on a related Human Rights and Capabilities topic, please submit the abstract to us by 28 February 2014. Abstracts for papers must be 500-1000 words. If submitting a full panel, please include the panel title and a description (up to 1000 words) in addition to an abstract for each paper. Acceptance notice will be sent to you before the general conference deadline on March 15. **Abstracts should be sent to hrtghdca2014@gmail.com.**

Our second goal is to organize an **all-day pre-conference workshop** on 1 September 2014, potentially with a site visit and in collaboration with local civil society groups. The provisional theme, in keeping with the theme of the overall conference, is “Social mobilization in the context of urbanization and times of crisis.” We welcome contributions on themes such as movements for social justice, housing policies and right to housing (including evictions), human rights cities, local responses to austerity measures, etc. Athens should, of course, be one of the topics to be discussed but we also hope to include cases from India, Brazil and other settings where social mobilization has been a recent phenomenon. Much will depend on the ideas and experiences of local partners, who would also select the site visit. We encourage you to contact us if you want to present your work, suggest invited speakers or collaborate in the organization of the workshop.

With your help, we hope this year’s event will be as successful as our previous workshops, such as the one at the HDCA 2011 conference in the Hague, Netherlands, on the topic “Human Rights and Human Development: Foundations & Issues” and the most recent HDCA 2013 conference in Managua, Nicaragua, where we organized a joint workshop with the International Development Ethics Association and the HDCA Ethics Thematic Group entitled “Ethics and Human Rights: ‘Doing’ Development in Central America.”

We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

All the best,

Areli Valencia, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa
Leonardo Castilho, Human Rights Practitioner
Stephen P. Marks, Harvard School of Public Health
Stacy J. Kosko, Center for International Development and Conflict Management,
University of Maryland
Co-Chairs, Human Rights, Development, and Capabilities Thematic Group, HDCA