

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

2020

HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION

Fact-finding, documenting
and monitoring



PROGRAM

The course will begin on Monday, November 16 with the official welcome by the authorities representing CIPDH-UNESCO, UNESCO Montevideo Regional Office, and the Argentine Government. The course will be inaugurated with the keynote speech of Professor Patricia Sellers, Special Advisor for Gender for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and a Practicing Professor at London School of Economics.

Between Tuesday 17 and Friday 20, and between Monday 23 and Friday 27, attendees will participate in 2-hour, online sessions at the same time every day.

An introductory panel discussion on “Human Rights Investigation: Techniques and Purposes” will be held on Tuesday 17, with the participation of Viviana Krsticevic, CEJIL (Washington) Director, Yasmin Sooka, former member of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa, and Paulo Abrão, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

During the following days, several kinds of sessions will be held. On the one hand, there will be classes taught by Human Rights experts on the legal, institutional and practical aspects regarding the investigation of serious human rights violations, such as the session that will be led by Luis Fondebrider, from the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, on “Evidence and Fact-Finding Missions: Lessons learned from the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team work in missions in more than thirty countries around the world”; the one to be led by Patricia Tappatá Valdez, CIPDH Director and former Director of UN Truth Commission for El Salvador, on “Human Rights Investigation Commissions”; and the one to be led by Professors Cath Collins and Lorena Balardini on “Systematization of Information for Human Rights Investigation.”

Several sessions targeted at the analysis of different case studies will be held, which will allow attendees to get in contact with the work of experts who have resorted to different strategies and methods for the investigation of human rights violations such as, for instance, the experience of IACHR Interdisciplinary Groups of Independent Experts in Ayotzinapa (Mexico) and Nicaragua, under the responsibility of Francisco Cox (GIEI-IACHR) and Paulo Abrão (IACHR), respectively. Karla Quintana, National Commissioner for the Search for Disappeared Persons in Mexico, will share with us her insights as to the strategies promoted by the government. Fabricio Guariglia, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, will discuss the remote investigation experience gathered in Al-Werfalli (Libya) case. Tracy Robinson, former Member of IACHR, and Fanny Gómez, will share with us the IACHR experience on the investigation of cases of violence against LGBTI people; and Julissa Mantilla, current member of IACHR, will speak about gender perspective in terms of Human Rights investigation.

On Thursday, November 19, Patricia Tappatá Valdez, CIPDH Director, and Roberto Saba, Course’s Academic Director, will hold an open interview with Professor Juan Méndez, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, followed by a debate with the attendees.

During the two-week course, attendees will participate in forums, virtual cafes, films and debates moderated by human rights experts.

Finally, and in parallel with the course sessions, attendees will participate in role-playing activities managed by Guillermo Fernández Maldonado (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), which will finish on Friday, November 27, before the end of the course, with a synchronous teamwork session and the sharing of ideas.