



**University of
Nottingham**
Human Rights Law Centre

Impacts of Business and Human Rights on Public International Law

Tuesday 29 March 2022

Speaker Biographies

Anita Ramasastry

Anita is the Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law and the Director of the Sustainable International Development Graduate Program at the University of Washington School of Law.

She is an expert in the fields of anti-corruption, commercial law, sustainable development and business and human rights. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, having been appointed as a rapporteur by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2016. Ramasastry is also a founding co-editor in chief of the *Business and Human Rights Journal*, published by Cambridge University Press. She is the Co-President of the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association and launched its annual research scholars forum. More recently, Ramasastry chaired an expert panel of jurists to develop the Corporate Crime Principles, focused on when States should investigate and prosecute cross border corporate crimes having significant human rights impacts. In 2019, she served as a commissioner on the Lichtenstein Initiative Commission on Finance against Slavery and Trafficking.

<https://www.law.uw.edu/directory/faculty/ramasastry-anita>

Daria Davitti

Daria holds a PhD in Law and LLM from the University of Nottingham where until 2021 she worked as Assistant Professor in Law and Head of the Forced Migration Unit at the Human Rights Law Centre. She is currently Associate Professor (docent) in Public International Law at Lund University, Faculty of Law (Sweden).

She co-directs two projects focusing on the implementation of the European Green Deal through the EU Taxonomy and the interaction of the latter with mandatory business and environmental due diligence processes at EU level. Her research, more broadly, focuses on the implementation of international law and international human rights law in complex contexts, such as situations of armed conflict, climate breakdown, forced migration, and humanitarian emergencies. Prior to joining academia, Daria served as a human rights field officer with the United Nations (both the former Department of Peacekeeping Operations, DPKO, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR), and was deployed in Afghanistan from 2006 to 2009. Her research on Afghanistan has been published in a monograph with Hart Publishing (2019) on the protection of the right to water in the context of extractive sector investment.

<https://portal.research.lu.se/en/persons/daria-davitti>

Doug Cassel

Doug is counsel specializing in business and human rights at the global law firm of King & Spalding. During an academic career before joining the firm, he taught, published and litigated in matters of business and human rights, and in the field of international human rights generally.

He sits on the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Editorial Board of the American Bar Association's Key Business and Human Rights Documents. He is counsel before the US Supreme Court for former US diplomats and international development practitioners, as amici curiae in the case of *Jam v. International Finance Corporation*, which they ask the Court to review and to permit the suit against the IFC to proceed.

[Douglass Cassel - King & Spalding \(kslaw.com\)](http://kslaw.com)

Erika George

Erika is the Samuel D. Thurman Professor of Law in the S.J. Quinney College of Law and Director of the Tanner Humanities Center of the College of Humanities, at the University of Utah.

Her current research explores the responsibilities of multinational corporations to respect international human rights and efforts to hold corporations accountable for alleged rights violations. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights, serves on the Board of Trustees of Earthjustice and is a member of the Fair Labor Association Board. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Business and Human Rights Journal*. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and was recently elected to the American Law Institute. Prior to joining the University of Utah, Erika was a fellow and later consultant to Human Rights Watch conducting human rights investigations in South Africa on women's rights, children's rights, violence, the right to education and rights abuses related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

https://faculty.utah.edu/u0412260-ERIKA_GEORGE/hm/index.html

Gabrielle Holly

Gabrielle is a Senior Adviser in Business and Human Rights at the Danish Institute for Human Rights in Copenhagen. She leads in the areas of human rights and business, access to remedy, transnational litigation, human rights due diligence and corporate engagement.

Gabrielle is an experienced commercial disputes practitioner having practiced for many years at major law firms in Australia and the UK. She also worked as a researcher at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. She has written extensively on business and human rights issues.

<https://www.humanrights.dk/staff/gabrielle-holly>

Humberto Cantú Rivera

Humberto is Professor at the School of Law and Social Sciences of Universidad de Monterrey (Mexico), and Director of its Human Rights and Business Institute. He holds a LL.D. from Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II.

He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Business and Human Rights Journal* and of the review *Droits fondamentaux*, the founding Director of the Latin American Academy on Human Rights and Business, a Vice-President of the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum. He has published widely on business and human rights and has extensive experience working with and advising States, international organizations, businesses and civil society on business and human rights in international, regional and domestic standard-setting processes and in the implementation of responsible business conduct standards.

Justine Nolan

Justine is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Australian Human Rights Institute, at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

She has published widely on business and human rights and her latest book, *Addressing Modern Slavery* (2019) (with M. Boersma) examines how consumers, business and government are both part of the problem and the solution in curbing modern slavery in global supply chains. She advises companies, NGOs and governments on these issues and is a member of the Australian Government's Expert Advisory Body on Modern Slavery. She is the Executive Editor of the *Australian Journal of Human Rights*, a member of the Editorial Board of the *Business and Human Rights Journal* and is a Visiting Scholar at NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. Justine has practiced as a private sector and international human rights lawyer.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/justine-nolan>

Lise Smit

Lise is Senior Research Fellow in Business and Human Rights at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. Lise has an LLM in human rights law from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, and a Masters in International Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland.

She conducts research on corporate human rights due diligence and other aspects of implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, She has authored various publications in the area of business and human rights, including on human rights litigation against companies. Prior to joining BIICL, Lise was a practicing advocate at the Cape Town Bar in South Africa. She has worked at the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre and the UN Global Compact Office. She was also law clerk to the Chief Justice of South Africa, Pius Langa, at the South African Constitutional Court.

<https://www.biicl.org/people/lise-smit>

Markus Krajewski

Markus is Professor at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany and holds the Chair in Public Law and Public International Law. He is one of the programme directors of the MA in Human Rights and chairperson of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN). He studied law, economics and political science at the University of Hamburg (Germany) and the Florida State University in Tallahassee (US).

His research focusses on international economic law, human rights, European external relations and the law of public services. He is co-editor of the European Yearbook of International Economic Law. He advises international governmental and non-governmental organisations on European and international economic law and acted as consultant in different development cooperation projects. Prior to his current role, he has taught at King's College London and the University of Potsdam in Germany, and was Guest Professor at the Collaborative Research Centre Transformations of the State at the University of Bremen.

<https://www.rph1.rw.fau.de/lehrstuhlteam-voelkerrecht/prof-dr-markus-krajewski/>

Michael Addo

Michael is the Director of the London Law Program at the University of Notre Dame Law School. He obtained a law degree at the University of Ghana and a Master of Law and PhD from the University of Essex in the UK, as well as a diploma in international human rights law from the International Institute of Human Rights at the University of Strasbourg, France.

Michael is an international lawyer with specialist expertise in international human rights law and human rights and international business policy. He was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2011-2018) with a mandate to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In that role, he has prepared policy papers and thematic reports for the United Nations Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, as well as policy advice for governments, companies and advocacy groups. From 2015 to 2016, he served as chairperson of the coordination Committee of the United Nations Special Procedure Mandate Holders.

<https://law.nd.edu/directory/michael-addo/>

Penelope Simons

Penelope is an Associate Professor and Vice Dean Research at the Faculty of Law (Common Law Section), and the Gordon F. Henderson Chair in Human Rights at the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, at the University of Ottawa. She obtained her PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK.

Her research has focused on understanding and examining the international and domestic legal structures and power dynamics that protect and facilitate business activity, and she has published widely. Penelope was co-counsel for Amnesty International Canada in the *Choc v Hudbay* and *Garcia v Tahoe* cases, and for Amnesty International Canada and the International Commission of Jurists in the ground-breaking *Nevsun v Araya* case, as well as for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in the *Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions and Attorney General of Quebec v 9147-0732 Quebec Inc.* She is a member of the editorial board of the *Business and Human Rights Journal*, and Edward Elgar Publishing's *Elgar Studies in Human Rights*, Vice President and a member of the board of the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars' Association, a member of the board of the Canadian Council on International Law and treasurer of the *Canadian Journal on Women and the Law*.

Sarah Joseph

Sarah is a Professor of Human Rights Law at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Her publications focus on human rights internationally and in Australia, with particular expertise on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, business and human rights, trade and human rights, and issues concerning the media (and social media) and human rights. She has conducted numerous human rights consultancies, including training programs in Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar, and in Australia for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and courses funded by AusAID (including for Iraqi government officials). Prior to her current appointment, she had been a Professor of Law at Monash University, Melbourne and was the Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law for 15 years.

<https://experts.griffith.edu.au/26861-sarah-joseph>

Surya Deva

Surya is a Professor at the Macquarie Law School, Sydney, Australia

His primary research interests lie in business and human rights, India-China constitutional law and sustainable development. Prof Deva has published extensively in these areas, and has advised various UN bodies, governments, multinational corporations and civil society organisations on matters related to business and human rights. He is a member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the *Business and Human Rights Journal*.

[Surya Deva — Macquarie University \(mq.edu.au\)](https://www.mq.edu.au/law/people/surya-deva)

Tara Van Ho

Tara is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Essex School of Law and Human Rights Centre where she is co-Director of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project.

Tara researches, publishes and speaks on a wide range of international legal issues, including addressing the impact of investment law and the corporate veil on human rights, and on particular issues stemming from the application of business and human rights in situations of armed conflict. She routinely presents at conferences and has served on several panels at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, She is also co-President of the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association.

[Profile for Tara Van Ho at the University of Essex](#)

Robert McCorquodale

Robert is Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Nottingham. He was formerly also Head of the School of Law.

He has published widely in the area of business and human rights, including by empirical research, and has advised business of all sizes, assisted governments around the world, been involved with civil society, industry and organisations in drafting legal changes and in litigation, as well as capacity building. He has appeared as an advocate before the International Court of Justice and the United Kingdom Supreme Court, and as a legal expert before United Nations bodies. He is a barrister and mediator at Brick Court Chambers, London, and the Founder of Inclusive Law, a consultancy on business and human rights.

[Staff Listing - The University of Nottingham](#)

Chairs and Speakers from the University of Nottingham

Professor Aoife Nolan

Professor Dino Kritsiotis

Dr Klara Polackova Van der Ploeg

Professor Marko Milanovic

Professor Olympia Bekou

Dr Sandra Frisby

[Staff Listing - The University of Nottingham](#)