

## Call for Participants

### Human Rights Responsibilities of Multinational Corporations in the Developing World

June 7-8 2011 | St Gallen | SWITZERLAND

**Deadline: 10 February 2012**

According to international law, states are the main duty bearers of human rights. However, in many areas, weaker states are not capable of protecting human rights effectively. Here, multinationals are often more powerful; and the argument has been brought forward that they might be able to step in and foster human rights. At the same time, gross human rights violations and instances of complicity are reported in the media every day.

To bring more light into this debate, this focus workshop aims to discuss dimensions of human rights responsibilities for MNCs that go beyond legal requirements, since laws and regulations are notoriously weak in most of the developing world.

The main focus lies on the following questions: **which rights should companies respect or protect, and what are the consequences for practice?**

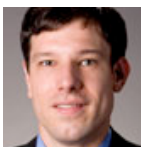
#### Guest Speakers



**Prof Todd Landman**

Professor of Government and Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex

*Todd Landman is internationally renowned for his work on the measurement and analysis of human rights and his engagement with a wide range of international governmental and non-governmental organisations in over 35 countries delivering training sessions, evaluations, and capacity building, particularly in the areas of statistics, measurement frameworks and impact assessment.*



**Prof Florian Wettstein**

Co-Director of the Institute for Business Ethics (IWE-HSG), St Gallen

*His research focuses on human rights obligations of multinational corporations, derived from a framework of rights-based cosmopolitan justice.*



**Maria Prandi**

Expert Group on Responsible Business and Investment in High-Risk Areas

*As a practitioner she has gained experience in the business and human rights field for over 15 years. She is a member of the UN Global Compact Expert Group on Responsible Business and Investment in High-Risk Areas and worked as a consultant at the former UN Commission on Human Rights. Prandi is also head of the Business and Human Rights at the School for a Culture of Peace at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).*

## **Aim**

This focus workshop aims at presenting first results and discussing possible frameworks to analyze the topic, and to formulate hypotheses. Upon finishing, a report of the main findings and a clear research agenda will be published online. The workshop will also facilitate exchange and explore possible co-operations among participating scholars.

## **Format**

For one-and-a-half days, up to 10 doctoral researchers and invited keynote speakers will analyze and discuss these topics. The sessions will be kick-started with a short powerpoint presentation, leaving sufficient room to engage in in-depth discussion.

## ***Call for participants***

**Deadline: Friday, 10 February 2012**

Participants should be doctoral researchers working on one of the following topics:

### Theory:

- What dimensions of human rights responsibilities “fit” MNCs? What rights are companies responsible for?
- How can we formulate ideas about the responsibility to respect and the duty to protect beyond the Ruggie framework?
- How can responsibility dimensions be formulated in terms of complicity in countries with repressive governments?
- Can the concept of CSR be an answer to human rights responsibilities of MNCs?
- Where are the limits of MNCs responding to insufficient state efforts?

### Practice:

- What can we learn from CSR initiatives in communities in Latin America?
- What can we learn from practice in a specific industry like mining, finance, pharmaceuticals, and food in the developing world?
- How useful is the Global Compact in preventing companies from becoming complicit in violating human rights?
- What are the consequences for legitimacy of corporations?

All participants will have the opportunity to shortly present their research related to the focus workshop.

**A short description of your **dissertation topic** or a paper abstract (max. 400 words) and **bio** (300 words) should be submitted no later than **Friday, 10 February 2012** to Rocio Robinson: [rociorobinson@hotmail.com](mailto:rociorobinson@hotmail.com)**

## Organizers:



### **Rocio Robinson**

PhD Candidate | St Gallen University | TADA

Rocío is a PhD student in the Organization Studies and Cultural Theory (DOK) programme at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Her area of specialization is Swiss Multinationals and their CSR activities in Latin America.

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### **Nicole Janz**

PhD Candidate | University of Cambridge | TADA

Nicole's research focuses on foreign direct investment (FDI), corporate social responsibility and human rights. She is especially interested in the impact of multinational companies on the protection of human rights in the developing world.

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### **Adriana Orellana**

PhD Candidate | Université de Lausanne | TADA

Research on theoretical dimensions of complicity of TNCs combined with empirical evidence from developing countries

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### **Jordi Vives i Gabriel**

PhD Candidate | St Gallen University | TADA

Research in BoP initiatives, business ethics, human rights, indigenous communities and extractive industry relations.

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### **Prof. Thomas Beschorner**

Director of the Institute for Business Ethics at the Universität St.Gallen, Switzerland & Co-director of the Transatlantic Doctoral Academy

Website: <http://www.doctoral-academy.net/members/beschorner>



The Transatlantic Doctoral Academy on Corporate Responsibility (TADA) brings together international PhD students who are dealing with questions of corporate responsibility/business ethics. TADA is interdisciplinary and open to PhD students of all academic disciplines. <http://www.doctoral-academy.net>