

## **Justice for Atrocities: Dialogues and Encounters between Latin America and Europe**

### **Call for papers**

On 6th and 7th December 2022, the conference ‘Justice for Atrocities: Dialogues and Encounters between Latin-America and Europe’ will be hosted at Westminster Law School (United Kingdom) and the University of Jyväskylä (Finland). The organizing committee invites paper abstracts. The conference will be either online or in a hybrid form (part online, part in London), depending on the availability of funds and the epidemiological situation.

The organisers, Dr. Marco Longobardo (Westminster) and Dr. Juan-Pablo Pérez-León-Acevedo (Jyväskylä), welcome proposal submissions from academics and other professionals. Junior faculty members are particularly welcome. Submissions from scholars based in the Global South and outside Europe are encouraged.

### **The Theme of the Conference**

For over five centuries, Latin America and Europe have had a strong and intense relationship throughout different historical stages: from the conquest/colonial times, to the decolonization process, to connections as sovereign states and, more recently, increasing integration within the globalisation process, the two continents have developed an intense exchange in many areas. Unfortunately, the commission of atrocities consisting of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law (which may constitute international crimes) have tragically been present on a large scale in both regions during the XX century and their consequences are still on-going today. While Europe suffered mass atrocities during the two World Wars and in the Balkan wars during the 90s, as well as, more recently, serious violations of human rights/humanitarian law in the Caucasus and Ukraine, Latin-American countries such as Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and Guatemala endured widespread and systematic abuses committed by dictatorial regimes and/or during internal armed conflicts, particularly over the last decades of the XX century.

In order to protect the fundamental rights of persons under the jurisdiction of Latin-American and European states from similar atrocities, strong supranational human rights systems, namely, the Inter-American and the European human rights systems, were established and have developed robust practice. In turn, national judicial authorities in both sides of the Atlantic have been active in investigating and prosecuting individuals who committed atrocities and sought impunity as powerfully illustrated in the Military Junta trial in Argentina, the Pinochet

case before British courts during the late 90s, the trial of the former President Fujimori in Peru, and recent cases related to the so-called Operation Condor (*Plan Cóndor*) before Italian courts. Although international law scholars have extensively examined justice for atrocities in either Latin America or Europe, there have been very few attempts to do so in a more integrated manner.

Against this background, this conference aims to fill important gaps in the existent academic literature by conducting a comprehensive, integrated, and comparative collective study in matters related to justice for atrocities that involve *both* Latin America and Europe at a multi-layered level: national, transnational, and international.

### **The Scope of the Call for Papers**

The organisers welcome original and unpublished proposals that, from legal and interdisciplinary perspectives, examine one of the below themes and/or other themes closely related to the present call:

- The normative, critical legal and historical foundations of the need for intercontinental justice dialogues and encounters.
- Potential judicial dialogues and encounters concerning historical cases of atrocities in Latin America committed during the European conquest and colonial times.
- Convergences and/or divergences, mutual influence, and similarities and/or differences between the law and practice within the Inter-American human rights system and the European human rights system(s) in atrocity cases and related justice matters.
- Impact of the practice of the Inter-American human rights system on the practice of European national courts and authorities *and/or* impact of the practice of the European human rights system on the practice of Latin-American domestic courts and authorities, concerning in both scenarios justice for atrocities.
- Mutual influence, convergences, or divergences between the Latin-American national judicial and legislative practices and the European national judicial and legislative practices in relation to atrocity cases and related justice matters.
- Comparative analyses of the law and practice of extended jurisdiction and universal jurisdiction in atrocity cases in Latin America and Europe.
- Legitimacy, effectiveness, and legacy assessments of justice initiatives concerning atrocities that involve both Latin America and Europe.
- Advantages/disadvantages, convergences/divergences, or synergies/diversions of strengthening justice encounters and dialogues between Latin America and Europe *vis-à-vis* the International Criminal Court.
- Critical analysis of specific instances of encounters and/or dialogues between Latin America and Europe in relation to atrocity cases, including but not limited to, for example: the (in)action of Latin-American national authorities as for Nazi fugitives in

the region, the legacy of the Pinochet case, and encounters between Italian courts and South American national jurisdictions concerning the Operation Condor crimes committed in South America against European nationals.

## **Instructions for Submission**

To participate in this call for papers, please send the following documents in English: an abstract (between 400 and 700 words) to both [m.longobardo1@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:m.longobardo1@westminster.ac.uk) and [perezlev@jyu.fi](mailto:perezlev@jyu.fi), along with a short CV (maximum two pages), and a list of recent publications. Please state in the application if you need travel support should the conference be entirely or partially in person in light of the available funding and the epidemiological situation. Please use the headline 'Justice for Atrocities 2022'. Only one abstract per author will be considered. Joint submissions are possible. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **17th January 2022**.

The abstracts will be assessed on the basis of the originality and innovative nature of the work, academic quality, the relevance to the theme of the conference, and diversity criteria. The organisers will contact the authors of the accepted abstracts by **7th February 2022**.

The speakers are expected to send their draft papers (approximately between 7000 and 10000 words) by **1st October 2022**.

On **6th and 7th December 2022**, a conference (either online or in hybrid form) will be held to discuss the draft papers. Selected papers will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal and/or will be included in a collective volume with an international publisher. Further information on publication plans will be provided at the end of the conference.

## **Contacts**

For further information, please Dr. Marco Longobardo ([m.longobardo1@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:m.longobardo1@westminster.ac.uk)) or Dr. Juan-Pablo Pérez-León-Acevedo ([perezlev@jyu.fi](mailto:perezlev@jyu.fi)).