



## **FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE:**

### **BETWEEN THE RIGHT TO TRUTH AND THE DUTY TO REMEMBER IN THE CASE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMES**

**Academia Belgica**  
**Via Omero, 8 I-00197, Roma**  
**(please use side entrance)**  
**[www.academiabelgica.it](http://www.academiabelgica.it)**

**3-4 April 2017**

#### **Background**

When international crimes are terminated and violent conflicts come to an end, post-conflicts societies and their political and social elites cannot escape the crucial issue of how history is being shaped and often constructed. Even a decision not to decide is likely to have effects in policy and practice. Different accounts of historical facts, different interpretations of events and different narratives of the past tend to co-exist and sometimes compete for primacy in public and private discourses. The past becomes an object of research and debate in a variety of forums, and the outcomes are of direct use in legal and non-legal procedures. These aspects gain particular importance in post-conflict situations and transitional settings characterised by rapid changes and multiple challenges in reconstructing societies.

This international seminar on transitional justice will focus on some salient aspects of the *relationship between past history, present narratives and future orientations in post-conflict settings*. For this purpose, it aims at paying attention to two major trends in international law and international relations: first, the emergence of the 'right to truth' about events of the past in order to understand the grand patterns of human rights violations and preserve the memory of individual victims and society as a collective; second, the establishment of the state 'duty to remember' about the legacy of the past in order to preserve history and respect the suffering of the victims. While the right to truth and the duty to remember have meanwhile been incorporated in legal documents, they can also be framed from the perspective of social movements, political discourses, educational policies, and other human rights strategies. In recent years, both aspects tend to be subsumed under the heading of victim reparations, with a particular emphasis on the category of satisfaction through symbolic forms of acknowledgement. The latter development also raises the issue of identifying the agents of memory activism and their relationships. It should be emphasised that endeavours to preserve history and

memory are not always uncontroversial but frequently lead to fierce debates in times of transition that may reproduce the deep cleavages of the past, and can also be subject to legal and political limitations to the freedom of expression. Finally, the seminar will also discuss how the 'architecture' of transitional justice is increasingly seen to be relevant for other forms of international crimes committed in long-term or mature democracies.

The seminar is organised as a closed expert meeting (by invitation only) of two half days where academics, practitioners and policy makers will discuss various aspects of the right to truth and the duty to remember in times of transition and beyond. *It serves as the fifth one in a longer series of international seminars organised since 2008 by the Research Line on Human Rights and Transitional Justice of the Leuven Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Leuven - KU Leuven (Belgium).* Earlier editions have focused on traditional forms of transitional justice, the rule of law, interdisciplinary approaches, and victim reparation policies, all designed to discuss cutting-edge issues in transitional justice from a global perspective.

## **Programme**

### **Monday 3 April**

Venue: Academia Belgica, seminar room (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

13:00 Reception of participants (drinks and sandwiches offered)

Chairperson: Stephan Parmentier, University of Leuven, and International Society of Criminology, Paris

14:00 Welcome  
Wouter Bracke, Academia Belgica, Roma

Objectives and structure of the seminar  
Stephan Parmentier, University of Leuven, and International Society of Criminology, Paris

14:15 Session 1: The Right to Truth and the Duty to Remember for International Crimes  
Keynote speaker: Maria Chiara Campisi, European University Institute, Florence  
Discussant: Fondazione Basso (TBC)

15:45 Health break

16:15 Session 2: Memorialisation as a Form of Symbolic Reparation for Victims  
Keynote speakers: Mina Rauschenbach, University of Lausanne, and Julia Viebach, University of Oxford  
Discussant: Flavia Famà, Libera contro le Mafie, Rome

17:45 Concluding Remarks

18:00 Close

19:30 Dinner (by invitation only)

**Tuesday 4 April**

Venue: Academia Belgica, seminar room (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

Chairperson: Maria Chiara Campisi, European University Institute, Florence

9:30 Session 3: Transnational Memories and Digital Media: The case of Mexico

Keynote speaker: Silvana Mandolessi, University of Leuven

Discussant: Laura Hein, Independent Consultant, Brussels

11:00 Health break

11:30 Session 4: Limitations to Freedom of Expression in relation to International Crimes

Keynote speaker: Pietro Sullo, University of Leuven

Discussant: Enzo Le Fevre Cervini, Budapest Centre for Mass Atrocities Prevention

13:00 Concluding Remarks

13:15 Close of the Seminar

13:30 Lunch break (drinks and sandwiches offered)

**Organisation**

The scientific organisation of this international seminar lies with the *Research Line on Human Rights and Transitional Justice, Leuven Institute of Criminology, University of Leuven – KU Leuven (Belgium)*, and with the following persons in particular: Maria Chiara Campisi, Laura Hein, Stephan Parmentier, Mina Rauschenbach, Pietro Sullo and Julia Viebach.

The seminar enjoys the logistical and financial support of the Academia Belgica, Rome, the International Society of Criminology, Paris, and the Fund on Transitional Justice, University of Leuven.

The *Academia Belgica* was founded in Rome in 1939 as a Belgian institution with a scientific and cultural vocation. Its main objective is the deepening of scientific and cultural relations between Italy and Belgium, and to this effect it maintains an extensive and specialised library, hosts academics and artists, and organises scientific and cultural meetings. It is based in the ‘academy quarter’ in the heart of Rome and shares its location with the Belgian Historical Institute in Rome and the Foundation Princess Marie-José.

The *International Society of Criminology* was established in Rome in 1937 and celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Its main objectives are to encourage activities and research for a better understanding of crime at an international scale, and to promote the prevention of crime as well as improve the procedures used by the various criminal justice systems. The Society enjoys an advisory status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe and participates in the work of UNESCO. Its members occupy major positions in their respective countries (scholars, judges, criminal justice administrators). Its headquarters are based in Paris.

The *Fund on Transitional Justice* was initiated in 2015 by the Research Line on Human Rights and Transitional Justice at KU Leuven and Intersentia Publishers Antwerp, and is administered by the KU Leuven University Fund. Its main objective is to serve as an interface between academic research on the one hand and practice and policy-making in transitional justice on the other hand. It organises seminars and lectures, is engaged in networking activities worldwide, and offers visiting opportunities to the University of Leuven for academics, policy makers and practitioners.

**More information:** Prof. Stephan Parmentier, University of Leuven - [stephan.parmentier@law.kuleuven.be](mailto:stephan.parmentier@law.kuleuven.be) - [www.law.kuleuven.be/linc](http://www.law.kuleuven.be/linc)



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