

The Content, Theory and Critique of Current Human Rights Revisionism

CONVENOR: Matthias Mahlmann (University of Zurich)

The workshop intends to explore the content and theory of current human rights revisionism. In recent years, a sustained historical, theoretical, sociological and anthropological critique of human rights has been formulated. This critique has provoked much debate about the foundations and prospects of the grown architecture of human rights protection since 1945. The revisionist arguments form a particular challenge to the project of human rights that substantially questions the legitimacy and practical prospects of this normative idea.

The workshop will engage with a variety of perspectives, trying to reconstruct major positions and reflect about possible shortcomings of these approaches. This reflection will lead to fundamental questions at the core of the philosophical understanding of human rights and the idea of justice.