



Summer University 2014

Human Rights - A Recurrent History

Istanbul 14 - 27 June

Set in Istanbul, this summer course offers students from the Nordic countries and Turkey a unique possibility to deepen their knowledge of the concept of human rights together with an international group of scholars. Our aim is to go beyond the Eurocentric narrative of how human rights have evolved by investigating legal traditions, political transformations and philosophical developments in both Europe and the Ottoman Empire. Students acquire an in-depth understanding of the ways in which human rights have been understood, institutionalised and contested, with special reference to the Nordic countries and Turkey. We also discuss the possibilities and limitations we are faced with in the current global discourses of human rights.

The focal themes of the course are the following:

- The development and transformation of citizenship
- Religion, nationalism, and the universally human
- Welfare and social justice between rights and politics

These are placed in historical and contemporary perspectives with a special focus on gender, class, and ethnicity.

Organization of the Course

The course is organised by the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII) in collaboration with the department of Human Rights Studies at Lund University, Sweden. Lecturers from different universities in Sweden, Turkey and elsewhere comprise the faculty. The course is intended for a group of about 20 students at advanced levels from the Nordic countries and Turkey. A pre-requisite is to have studied at least three terms at university level in a relevant topic. The participants are

expected to be able to read the course material as well as to participate actively in discussions in English. Teaching is organised as lectures, seminars, and study visits. Admitted students are expected to have read the relevant literature before the course starts. Active participation and class presentations will be required.

Travel to and accommodation during the course are covered by the SRIL.

Your Application

Admission will be based on the evaluation of your CV and of your personal statement including a brief description of a small research project you would like to work on during the course. The theme of the project should be related to the overall objectives of the course. After the course you will be given a diploma issued by the Swedish Research Institute with a personal evaluation statement. Subject to agreement with your home university you may receive credits for your participation from your home university.

Please send your application to the course coordinators (addresses below). The course coordinators need to have your application **no later than 1 March 2014** including the following documents:

- CV
- **A personal statement including a brief outline of your project** (ca 5000 characters in total)
- **Official transcripts** from your home university

Please send these in **one single PDF** document.

For further information you are welcome to contact the course coordinators:

Marianne Boqvist, SRIL, marianneb@sri.org.tr

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