

Bridging the political/civil divide: civil society rights mobilization and political change

Conveners:

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Around the globe, recent decades have seen a growing, heterogeneous set of civil society actors increasingly framing their diverse goals in terms of human rights and including legal strategies in their repertoires of action.

For this panel, we invite papers that study how civil society groups appropriate and mobilize law and rights, in local, national and/or transnational arenas, to effect social change and development, on a variety of issues, e.g. mobilization for migrant rights; human rights activism in the aftermath of protracted social conflicts; lawsuits against governments or corporations related to climate change or environmental degradation; or diaspora activism for transitional justice.

In particular, we welcome papers that address the inherently political dimension of civil society mobilization on human rights, focusing on its causes, strategies, facilitating conditions and socio-political consequences, explicitly reflecting upon theoretical and conceptual aspects of civil society or seeking to understand the role of such mobilization for development both in the global “North” and the global “South”.