



EVIDENCE IN
INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
ADJUDICATION
ERC - UGENT



What Truth? Evidence as Politics in Human Rights Courts

7-9 September 2026
Tarragona, Spain

Conference Programme

Keynote speakers:

Laurence Burgorgue-Larsen (Paris I Sorbonne)
Marie-Bénédicte Dembour (University of Ghent)
Jessica Greenberg (University of Illinois)

Organising Committee:

Marie-Bénédicte Dembour, Cornelia Klocker, Isabella Leroy, and Fatima Mukaddam

Conference Housekeeping:

- Speakers are requested to submit a draft paper of between 3,000 and 9,000 words by **30 June 2026**.
- All participants are expected to attend the full conference proceedings from **12:00 on Monday, 7 September 2026 until 18:00 on Wednesday, 9 September 2026**.
- Each presenter will have 12–15 minutes to deliver their presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session. Please note that time limits will be strictly enforced to ensure a fair allocation of time among all presenters.
- Please inform the conference organisers in advance if you require any specific presentation equipment. If your presentation includes slides, please email them to dissect.erc@ugent.be no later than **Sunday, 6 September 2026**. Please use the subject line: [Your Name]_ConferencePresentation

Conference Logistics:

- Venue: Mas Boronat, nestled in the Catalan hills, is located approximately one hour by car from Barcelona El Prat Airport and 30 minutes from Reus Airport.
- Accommodation will be provided at Mas Boronat in single-room occupancy. Please note that not all rooms are en suite; some accommodation is arranged in small apartments of two or three bedrooms sharing a single bathroom.
- Vegetarian meals and coffee breaks will be provided during the conference.
- Directions: Please see our [FAQ](#) for detailed directions from all nearby airports, including information on local public transport, taxi services, and reliable pre-booked taxi providers.
- Local Transportation: Participants who wish to coordinate transport have been invited to provide their flight details and WhatsApp number in a shared document. Please note that these arrangements will be made directly between participants and not by the conference organisers.

Accommodation and Venue Contact Details:

Mas Boronat (Please contact the venue directly to book any additional nights).

Carrer de Flandes

43885 Salomó, Tarragona, Spain

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Email: info@masboronat.com

Emergency Contact:

Should you require urgent assistance during the conference, please contact:

Isabella Leroy: WhatsApp: +33 643 80 99 60 or

Fatima Mukaddam: WhatsApp: +39 388 306 1006

This conference is an output of DISSECT: Evidence in International Human Rights Adjudication, a Horizon 2020 research project funded by the European Research Council (ERC-AdG-2018-834044) and led by Prof. Marie-Bénédicte Dembour at the University of Ghent. For more information, visit the DISSECT website.

Day 1, Monday 7 September 2026

12:30 – 13:30 Welcome and lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Introduction/keynote *Marie-Bénédicte Dembour*

Chair: Isabella Leroy

14:30 – 14:45 Break

14:45 – 16:15 Session 1: Truth-finding: (not) an aim in IHR adjudication?

Chair: Elisabeth Lambert

- Divergent Judicial Approaches to Truth-Seeking: The Right to Know the Truth in European and Inter-American Human Rights Systems, *Natasha Stamenkovikj*
- When Truth Is Not the Point: Evidentiary Reasoning and Legitimacy in Human Rights Adjudication, *Leannán O'Grady*
- Dreams as Testimony: Indigenous Dream Communication before the Inter-American Court
Nina Kolowratnik

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 – 18:15 Session 2: Obscuring the truth, or the politics of unknowing

Chair: Jo Wilding

- Truth under Suppression: Evidentiary Framework in Systematic Violations of Articles 2 and 3 ECHR, *Pınar Çağlı*
- Establishing Its Truth: The ECtHR's Flexibility as a Rationale for Effective Protection, *Gunay Ismayilova*
- Inequality of Arms as Epistemic Domination: Evidence and the Burden of Proof in Pushback Litigation, *Spyridoula Katsoni*

19:30 Dinner

Day 2, Tuesday 8 September 2026

08:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast**

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 3: How the adjudicator misses the truth**

Chair: Fatima Mukaddam

- ‘It is a truth universally acknowledged’: Truisms, truth and evidence in article 8 ECHR family reunification cases, *Helena Wray*
- More sana than crítica: obscuring in situ evidence behind evidentiary concepts? *Maja Dehamers*
- Rethinking the Application of the No-Fourth Instance in the Absence of Timely Legal Representation at Domestic Level: Lessons from the Operation of the Windrush Compensation Scheme (UK), *Jo Wilding and Marie-Bénédicte Dembour*

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 4: Which interests do evidentiary legal techniques serve?**

Chair: Helena Wray

- When Does Procedural Deception Trigger Inadmissibility before the European Court of Human Rights? The “Sufficient Certainty” Standard in Proving Intent as a Condition for Abuse of the Right of Individual Application, *Luna Lanckvriind*
- The Standard of Proof as a Political Choice: Why “Beyond Reasonable Doubt” Means Something Different in Human Rights Adjudication, *Rahul Desarda*
- Presumption of truth: a look at the way the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights interprets State silence, *Héloïse Guichardaz*

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30 – 15:30 **Session 5: Evidencing mass violations of human rights**

Chair: Maja Dehamers

- Keeping the Truth Alive: Grassroots Truth-Seeking by Families of the Disappeared and International Human Rights Mechanisms in the Mexican context, *Anna Karolina Chimiak*
- CEDAW inquiries and the accountability turn: truth-seeking, due process, and evidentiary methodologies in comparative perspective, *Giulia Cagol*

15:30 – 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15-17:15 **Keynote**, *Jessica Greenberg*

Chair: Fatima Mukaddam

17:30-18:45 **DISSECT’s Recommendations Booklet**: feedback from all conference participants

Chair: Isabella Leroy

19:30 **Dinner**

Day 3, Wednesday 9 September 2026

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 Session 6: Filtering truth: domestic courts and scientific evidence

Chair: Nina Kolowratski

- Indirect Truth-Seeking: The CJEU's Multilevel Regime of Veridiction in Fundamental Rights Cases, *Monica Spatti*
- Truth as Governance: Judicial Gatekeeping and the Production of Human Rights Evidence in the Inter-American System, *Caroline L. Silva*

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 Session 7: Who gets to be heard?

Chair: Nina Fokkink

- Truth, Empire and the Silencing of a People: The Chagos Advisory Opinion and the Politics of Evidence, *Raamandarsingh (Neel) Purmah*
- Asylum Adjudication: Can Credibility Assessments Ever Be Credible? *Ahmed Elsayed*
- What does evidence brought by applicants and civil society do to the implementation of ECtHR judgments? *Elisabeth Lambert and Melis Aras*

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Session 8: 'Managing' the truth

Chair: Jessica Greenberg

- Is the ECtHR Biting Its Tongue? The Conceptualisation of Marriages of Convenience and the Scope of Article 8, *Nina Fokkink*
- Historical Truth or Historical Fact? The European Court of Human Rights' Evidentiary Assessment of the Past, *Emilija Branda*

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-16:30 Keynote, Laurence Burgorgue-Larssen

Chair: Marie-Bénédicte Dembour

16:30 – 17:00 Concluding remarks