Indigenous Rights and Transitional Justice

20th October, 2011

All day event

9.00am-5.30pm

Hedley Bull Building, Lecture Theatre 1

Australian National University
School of Archaeology and Anthropology

Theme:
This conference is focusing on the construction of transitional justice procedures such as truth commissions as a powerful tool for strengthening indigenous rights. Indigenous people around the world are disproportionately affected when a society descends into violent conflict or faces mass violations of human rights. Importantly, indigenous people are often especially targeted by acts of atrocity and the abuses of authoritarian states as much as seen as obstacles to national development. Structural or other forms of violence are marking indigenous people’s lives that are most vulnerable to the consequences of material disadvantage, political disenfranchisement, and forced assimilation. Importantly, the experiences of indigenous people remain marginalized or inadequately addressed in most legal systems across the world. If structural injustice and violence are perceived harmful and causing ill-being the questions that thus arise are: What are the healing principles of truth commissions? Do we think that truth commissions have healing properties? Is justice achieved on an individual or a collective level? When do people evoke a healing process through transitional justice?

The purpose of this conference
Our knowledge is limited on understanding indigenous rights in the arena of transitional justice. It is important to understand individual versus collective justice that is achieved or searched for through transitional justice processes. The objective of this conference is to share expert experiences on the guidelines of principles and procedures for truth commissions that have recently been developed to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples. In addition, the conference will critically assess the complexity of truth commissions in their relationship to reconciliation and societal healing.

Why is this conference important?
The conference will be a unique opportunity to bring together academic scholars, government speakers and experts in the field of transitional justice to create a momentum that will transcend the conference room and have a deeper impact on future procedures of achieving justice for indigenous people in violent contexts.

College of Arts and Social Sciences
Master of Culture, Health and Medicine

Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS)
Registration and Coffee: 8.30-9.00

Opening Remarks: 9.00-9.40am
Les Malezer (National Congress)
Dr. Doreen Montag (Australian National University (ANU), Oxford University)

Key Note Speaker: 9.40-10.15am
Eduardo González-Cueva (Director of the Truth and Memory Programme, International Centre for Transitional Justice, New York)
“Indigenous Rights and Transitional Justice”

First Panel: 10.15 -11.00am
The framework: Indigenous Rights, Transitional Justice and Healing
Chair: Dr. Doreen Montag (ANU, Oxford University)
Assist. Prof. Dr. Polly Walker (Juniata College, University of Queensland)
“Ceremonial Worldviews and Transformational Justice”
Dr. Wendy Lambourne (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney)
‘Justice for Whom? Transformative Justice and Indigenous Rights’

Tea Break: 11.00 – 11.30am

Second Panel: 11.30 -13.00pm
Reconciliation, Trauma and Healing: Australian Perspectives
Chair: Eduardo González-Cueva (International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), New York)
Les Malezer (National Congress)
TBA
Assoc Prof. Gordon Briscoe (ADSRI, ANU)
Aboriginal Australians: Transition and Justice: A Question of Genocide and Destruction?
Lunch Break: 13.00-14.00pm

Panel Three: 14.00-15.15
International Perspectives on the Complexity of Transitional Justice and People’s Rights
Chair: Eduardo González-Cueva (ICTJ, New York)

Prof. Michael Humphrey (University of Sydney)
“Re-entering History as Suffering Victims: The Reach of Transitional Justice into Past Violence and Trauma”

Dr. Laura Grenwell (University of Adeleide)
“Legal Pluralism and Transitional Justice”

Daniela Gavshon (International Centre for Transitional Justice, Solomon Island)
TBA- on Solomon Island

Dr. Susan Harris Rimmer (ANU, ACFID)
TBA – on Solomon Island

Coffee Break: 3.15- 3.45
Panel Four: 3.45-5.00

The Future of Transitional Justice in Latin America: Lessons Learned
Chair: Dr. Doreen Montag (ANU)

Assoc Prof. Estela Valverde (Macquarie University)
“Mapuche Struggle to Land Rights in Chile”

Dr. Humberto Mancilla (PUKAÑAWI, Bolivia)
“Land Rights, Indigenous People and Transitional Rights in Bolivia”

Prof. Michael Humphrey (University of Sydney)
“Globalisation of Public Violence and Citizen Security in Latin America”

Eduardo González Cueva (ICTJ, New York)
“Fighting Impunity and Forgetfulness in Latin America: Lessons Learned”

Final Panel Discussion: 5.00 -5.30pm

Concluding Remarks on Current Trends and Future Consideration of Indigenous Rights and Transitional Justice
Chair: Prof. Michael Humphrey (University of Sydney)

Dr. Gordon Briscoe (ANU)
Les Malezer (National Congress)
Dr. Wendy Lambourne (ANU, ACFID)
Eduardo González-Cueva (M.A.) (ITCJ, New York)
Dr. Humberto Mancilla (PUKAÑAWI, Bolivia)

Admission is open to all, but an RSVP to Nada Al-Hudaid nabhus@gmail.com for catering purposes would be appreciated.

For further information:
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