

THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC LAW (CIPL)
ANU COLLEGE OF LAW PRESENTS:



PUBLIC SEMINAR

CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS: Multilateralism in the United Nations Human Rights System

Dr Sarah McCosker

Senior Legal Officer
Office of International Law
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department



Friday, 2 October, 1–2pm
Phillipa Weeks Staff Library
ANU College of Law (Bldg 5), Fellows Rd, ANU
The Australian National University

Please RSVP (by cob Thursday, 1 October) to E: rsvp@law.anu.edu.au
Enquiries to T: (02) 6125 0454

This event is free and open to the public.

Both the United Nations human rights treaty body mechanisms and Charter mechanisms face ongoing challenges, including significant backlogs; issues of overlapping mandates; inconsistency in quality; and the perception that the system has little impact on the principal human rights violators. Both the treaty body and Charter mechanisms have developed some interesting innovations in recent years, which highlight the adaptive capability of the UN human rights system to develop new ways of addressing challenges—but which have also brought fresh challenges. The paper examines challenges and innovations reflected in the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. The paper also critically evaluates some innovations in treaty reporting processes, and an interesting (and potentially controversial) development in the way that some treaty committees are drafting their General Comments—by first providing a draft text to States Parties and civil society and inviting them to submit their views. The paper also discusses the relative success so far of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, the most significant innovation of the Human Rights Council. Dispute Settlement!

Dr Sarah McCosker is a Senior Legal Officer in the Office of International Law at the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, where she works in the International Security and Human Rights Branch. Her fields of specialisation in international law include international dispute settlement, international human rights law and humanitarian law. Before joining the Attorney-General's Department she was based at the University of Oxford, where she gained two Masters degrees and a doctorate, and taught public international law to undergraduates, and to diplomats on the Oxford Foreign Service Programme. Her doctorate was on 'Law and Diplomacy in International Dispute Settlement'.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University or the Australian Government

ANU COLLEGE OF LAW

<http://law.anu.edu.au/CIPL>