The training session “The interaction between human rights law and its next-door neighbours: international humanitarian law and international criminal law” of 27 June 2013 aims to clarify the fuzzy borders of human rights law. The seminar will add to the integrated view of human rights by focusing on a topical subject of great interest that is a perfect example of the deep interconnection between International Human Rights Law on the one hand, and International Criminal Law on the other, namely the law on crimes against humanity. Over time, the category of crimes against humanity has become the criminal law response to gross violations of human rights. This made it vulnerable to challenges of being too vague and over-inclusive and thereby in violation of the fundamental criminal law principle of *nullum crimen sine lege*. It engendered a debate on the raison d’être, the outer limits and boundaries of the law on crimes against humanity. The research will focus on one issue in particular that is essential to draw a demarcation line between crimes against humanity and ‘ordinary’ human rights abuses, and thus the role and scope of international criminal law, namely the concept of ‘organizational policy’ in the context of a crime against humanity, as enshrined in Article 7(2)(a) of the ICC Statute.

Two speakers are invited to present their research on this topic. First, Dr. Patricia Pinto Soares who works at the European University Institute in Florence and also is Human Rights Researcher for MONUSCO in Kinshasa, DRC, will discuss the issue on basis of her article “Tangling Human Rights and International Criminal Law: The Practice of International Tribunals and the Call for Rationalized Legal Pluralism”. Afterwards, PhD student Mathias Holvoet will present his research in order to receive comments and open up a discussion.

Programme

Morning session (closed)

9h30 – 10h Welcome coffee
10h – 10h15 Introduction by Prof. Dr. De Hert and Prof. Dr. Smis
10h15 – 12h Informal discussion on further progress on concept papers & roundtable on the human rights integration perspective within each research project
12h – 13h Sandwich lunch

Afternoon session (Chair: Prof. Dr. De Hert)

13h – 13h30 Introduction to the IAP project and the relevance of the integration aspect
13h30 – 14 h Presentation by Dr. Patricia Pinto Soares
14h – 14h30 Q & A
14h30 – 15h00 Coffee break
15h00 – 15h30 Presentation by Mathias Holvoet
15h30 – 16h30 General discussion

Practical Information

Location: Lisbon Room, The Institute for European Studies, Pleinlaan 5, 1st floor B-1050 Brussels (for directions http://www.ies.be/content/directions-ies)

Would you like to participate? Send an e-mail to cmjansse@vub.ac.be