

Reimagining Victims' Reparation Global Network (RVRGN)

Second International Workshop

*'Reimagining victims' reparation: building new perspectives on
empathy, dignity, and justice for victims of serious human
rights violations in the Global South'*

*University College Roosevelt
Burgerzaal / Raadzaal Room
02-03 May 2024
Middelburg, (The Netherlands)*

<https://reimaginingvictimsreparation.com/>

About this Second International Workshop

Conventionally, efforts to reimagine how international organisations, multilateral bodies, nation-states, private actors, NGOs, grassroots movements, and civic associations can deliver reparations to victims of serious human rights violations have been focused on legalistic approaches, viewing victims as 'objects' of reparation rather than 'subjects' with their own agency, organisational capability, and initiatives. Some outcomes of this institutionalisation of reparation processes are dominant legalism, privileging state-led prosecutions over victims-based reparations, and socio-cultural and economic rights being usually ignored by reparative mechanisms.

Thus, traditionally, victims have had little influence or involvement in state-led reparative processes, participating as instruments of those processes rather than on their own terms. It is argued that rather than being driven by victims, reparation is a consequence of global neoliberal governance, driven by complicated international bureaucracy and developing systems that create many of the needs that victims articulate. As a result, what developing a victim-centred reparative process actually means becomes ambiguous, despite the general

commitment of international bodies, states, and civil society organisations involved in such a principle. For this reason, this second international workshop aims to continue reimagining victims' reparation from novel perspectives, contributing to developing more critical reparatory theories and practices that center victims' needs, initiatives, and expectations.

The Secure Societies International Research Collaboration and Production Fund (IRCPF) at the University of Huddersfield and the University College Roosevelt support this second international workshop. We also count on the support of Dialogics of Justice at the University of Humanistic Studies project in preparing the event.

Workshop Aims

Through this workshop, we aim to provide original comparative research exploring how the concepts of human dignity, transitional and transformative justice, empathy, and recognition can create novel perspectives to assist the dignification of victims of serious human rights violations in the Global South.

Gathering academics, practitioners, and activists concerned with victims' reparation, we will create a forum to explore both the institutional responses based on international humanitarian law, human rights law, transitional and transformative justice, as well as grassroots initiatives that different groups of victims' activists and human rights defenders have implemented on various countries.

The first day of the workshop will be open to students. This provides an invaluable opportunity for the next generation of scholars and advocates to immerse themselves in the discourse surrounding human dignity, transitional and transformative justice, empathy, and recognition. The workshop will be closed on the second day and dedicated to in-depth discussions on potential research opportunities. This focused session will allow participants to delve into the complexities of victims' reparations and explore avenues for further investigation, collaboration, and action.

Organisers: Sandra M. Rios Oyola, University College Roosevelt s.riosoyola@ucr.nl

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Matthew Snell, University of Huddersfield m.j.snell@hud.ac.uk

The first day sessions will be streamed online. [Join the meeting in Teams](#) Meeting ID: 358 377 870 140 Passcode: dD8H27

Programme

Thursday 2 May

9:00 – 9:10 WELCOME ADDRESS

Alexei Karas, Director of Education, University College Roosevelt.

9:10 - 9:30 OPENING REMARKS

Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Matthew Snell, and Sandra Rios Oyola | The University of Huddersfield and University College Roosevelt

PANEL 1

Chair Andrei Gomez Suarez | University of Winchester

9:30 – 9:50 Santiago Zuleta Rios | Zulegal (Colombia) | "Sewing reparations in a transnational frontier: a legal history of capitalism and human rights in la Guajira-Colombia (1976 – 2026)."

9:50 – 10:10 Claire Taylor | The University of Liverpool (UK) | "Women's Bodies and Ecofeminist Resistance to Armed Conflict: Street Art and Reclaiming Public Space in the Work of the Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres, Colombia."

10:10 – 10:30 Camilo Tamayo Gomez | University of Huddersfield | "Reimagining victims' reparation for long-term kidnappees: The case of Colombia."

10:30 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 COMFORT BREAK

PANEL 2

Chair: Matt Snell | University of Huddersfield

11:30 – 11:50 Bojan Gavrilovic | Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights | "Civil Society Mobilization and the Role of Survivors in Enacting and Implementing the Yazidi Female Survivors Law in Iraq."

11:50 - 12:10 Zulia Y Orozco Reynoso | Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (Mexico) | "Rethinking the restoration of harm to Relatives of victims of disappearance in Mexicali, Baja California".

12:10 – 12:30 Natalia Maystorovich | University of Sydney | “Reimagining Reparations through Forensic Exhumations of the Disappeared”.

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH PAUSE

PANEL 3

Chair: Sandra Rios Oyola | University College Roosevelt

14:00 – 14:20 Nicole Immler, Niké Wentholt, and Siri Driessen | The University of Humanistic Studies | “Reimagining reparation as social repair. A Dialogics of Justice perspective.”

14:20 - 14:40 Hannah Gooze | King’s College London | “Rethinking Reparations in South Africa: injury, dignity, and repair”.

14:40 – 15:00 John Njenga Karugia | Humboldt University of Berlin | “Multidirectional Mnemoeconomics: The Political Economy of Dignity for Reparations in South Africa.”

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

15:30– 16:00 COMFORT BREAK

16:00 – 17:00 CLOSING REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Chair: Matt Snell | University of Huddersfield

Facilitator: Paul Gready | University of York

17:00 – 18:00 NETWORK’S NEXT STEPS: Publications, Future Workshops, and Panels
Sandra Rios Oyola, Camilo Tamayo, and Matt Snell

18:30 Dinner

Friday 3 May

9:00 – 13:00 Research Sandpit

Chairs: Nisha Kanwar and Matt Snell | University of Huddersfield

13:00 -14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Final Session and Closing Remarks

15:00 Optional visit to the archive of the MCC (The Middelburgse Commercie Compagnie).
The MCC archive has been declared a 'Memory of the World' by
UNESCO. <https://www.zeeuwsarchief.nl/en/zeeland-stories/trans-atlantic-slave-trade/>