



Victims and the Labour of Justice at the International Criminal Court: The Blame Cascade

A Manchester Law School research seminar by Dr Leila Ullrich, Oxford University.

Good morning,

I'm delighted to announce that Dr Leila Ullrich will join us from Oxford University on the **24th of January, 12—1.45pm** (SB G.06- Moot Court Room) for a talk on her newly published book.

Abstract

Victim participation at the ICC has routinely been viewed as an empty promise of justice or mere spectacle for audiences in the Global North, providing little benefit for victims. Why, then, do people in Kenya and Uganda engage in justice processes that offer so little, so late? How and why do they become the court's victims and intermediaries, and what impact do these labels have on them?

Victims and the Labour of Justice at the International Criminal Court offers a response to these poignant questions, demonstrating that the notion of 'justice for victims' is not merely symbolic, expressive, or instrumental. On the contrary — the book argues — the ICC's methods of victim engagement are productive, reproducing the Court as a relevant institution and transforming victims in the Global South into highly gendered and racialized labouring subjects. Challenging the Court's interplay with global capitalist relationships, the book makes visible the hidden labour of justice, and how it lures, disciplines, and blames both victims and victims' advocates.

Drawing on critical theory, criminological analysis, and multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in The Hague, Kenya, and Uganda, Victims and the Labour of Justice at the International Criminal Court illuminates how the drive to include victims as participants in international criminal justice proceedings also creates and disciplines them as blameworthy capitalist subjects. Yet, as victim workers learn to 'stop crying', 'be peaceful', 'get married', 'work hard', and 'repay debt', they also begin to challenge the terms of global justice.

Bio

Leila is an Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Oxford and a Fellow at Worcester College. She works at the crossroads of international criminal justice, transitional justice, victimology, border criminology and counterterrorism. She is particularly interested in how global criminal justice institutions create gendered and racialized subjects, and how these subjects (victims, refugees and racialized communities) engage with and resist these processes. She approaches these questions using feminist, decolonial, and critical political economy theories.

Before her current position, Leila was a Lecturer in Law at Queen Mary University of London and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford. She is also a member of the editorial board of Feminist Legal Studies.

More on Dr Ullrich's work can be found here: [Leila Ullrich | Faculty of Law \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

This event will include responses to Dr Ullrich's book from Dr Rossella Pulvirenti (MMU) and Dr Tanya Serisier (Birkbeck – University of London).

Best wishes,

Dr Hasret Cetinkaya

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 349 196 106 932

Passcode: yX2c98