



University of Cyprus
Department of Law

The **Department of Law** at the **University of Cyprus** kindly invite you to a research seminar on
The future is a foreign country: climate change and (the real risk of) ill-treatment contrary to Article 3 ECHR

Wednesday, 27 October 2021 at 18:00-20:00

by Dr Natasa Mavronicola, Reader at University of Birmingham

Chair: Dr Aristoteles Constantinides, Associate Professor at University of Cyprus

Abstract

While climate change is already ravaging many parts of the world, with its most devastating impacts on the poor and vulnerable, the spectre of climate catastrophe haunts people everywhere, and the phenomenon of ‘climate anxiety’ has become pervasive, particularly among children and young people. As States’ climate commitments and concrete actions are shown to be inadequate to avert the reaching of irreversible and catastrophic tipping points, I contemplate how State (in)action on anthropogenic climate change might implicate an absolute human right: the right not to be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Taking as my point of departure the case of *Agostinho and others v Portugal and others*, currently before the European Court of Human Rights, and the Court’s decision to raise of its own motion the question of a violation of Article 3 ECHR (the right not to be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment), I unpack the principled basis on which a finding of such a violation can be made. In doing so, I consider both the present and future implications of climate change for children and young adults such as the applicants in *Agostinho*, and draw from the Court’s reasoning in a variety of contexts, including that of *refoulement*: the practice of forcibly subjecting persons to a real risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by returning or removing them to another country.

Speaker Bio

Natasa Mavronicola is a [Reader in Law at Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham](#). Her research focuses on human rights law, and intersections between human rights and criminal justice as well as counter-terrorism. She has published work in journals such as the *Human Rights Law Review* and the *Modern Law Review*. Her recently published monograph, entitled [Torture, Inhumanity and Degradation under Article 3 of the ECHR: Absolute Rights and Absolute Wrongs](#) (Hart Publishing 2021), has been reviewed in the *Human Rights Law Review*, the *Human Rights Quarterly*, and the *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l'homme*. Dr Mavronicola has served as Special Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, and has provided expert input on human rights law to bodies such as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe.

Practical Details

Language: The seminar will be conducted in English.

Registration: Participation is open, but you must register [here](#) for individual access to the Zoom meeting.