



The **Department of Law** at the **University of Cyprus** kindly invite you to a research seminar on

Hate speech from the victims' perspective

Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 18:00-19:15

by Dr Tina Stavrinaki

Chair: Associate Professor Aristoteles Constantinides

Abstract

Hate speech is one of the most controversial topics in international human rights law. Scholars have extensively examined the boundaries between freedom of expression and hate speech, and fear has been expressed about the authoritarian effect of criminalisation on democratic values. Others focus on the connection between hate speech and hate crime or the offensive impact on vulnerable groups exposed daily to racial and other forms of discrimination. At the same time, racial justice movements around the world demand inclusive democracy and denounce hate speech and systemic racism. Based on post-doctoral research at the University of Cyprus, the seminar will examine the role of the victim in hate speech cases before the ECtHR and the UN treaty bodies and how it shapes procedural requirements, such as the legal standing, or contributes to clarifying the standard of proof and the content of substantive concepts, such as “harm”. Taking into account the ratification status of international human rights instruments and their specificities, the seminar will examine if the ECtHR and the UN treaty bodies have reached common ground on the scope of review of domestic remedies. Focusing on the victim will allow us to discuss how the group-identity dimension in hate speech interacts with the individual premises of international human rights law and if human rights obligations against hate and discrimination, taken as framework concepts, introduce a different approach on underlying principles.

Speaker Bio

Tina Stavrinaki is post-doctoral researcher on “Hate in Law and in Practice” at the Law Department of the University of Cyprus. She holds a PhD in international law from the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris 2)(summa cum laude and special award, Editions A. Pedone, 2016), a LLM in comparative European human rights law from the University of Strasbourg – Institut des Hautes Etudes Europeennes and a LLB from the University of Athens. She has an extensive working experience with the National Human Rights Institution and the UNHCR in Greece. Her research covers a wide range of human rights issues, including international monitoring mechanisms, freedom of expression, data protection in criminal law, gender equality, racist violence, hate speech, extremist groups, rights of persons with disabilities, the administration of justice for victims, social rights, and the right to a healthy environment. She co-founded in 2011 and coordinated the Racist Violence Recording Network, a widely recognized best practice in recording hate crimes, supporting victims and building synergies between human rights institutions, civil society, and national authorities. In this context, she was a member of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance in Greece and has trained lawyers, humanitarian staff, civil servants, and law enforcement officials. Since January 2020, she serves as an elected independent expert in the 18-member UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for a term of 4 years.

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.