

Organizational Awareness of Human Rights in U.S.-based Social Science Professional Associations

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on behalf of

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Notes on the Organization of this Document

The categorization of certain academic disciplines in this document as “social science” is strictly a nominal exercise; the aim was towards inclusivity rather than exclusivity.

Each discipline's listings have been subdivided into those organizations that show HR-related committees (“positive” findings) and those that do not (“no findings”), in an effort to make the document easily readable and useful to SSF members.

If there are associations that have been left out – as there undoubtedly will be – or miscategorization of any sort, please submit corrections and errata to the author at dpw@louisville.edu.

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Umbrella Science and Social Science Organizations

American Association for the Advancement of Science

<http://www.aaas.org>

Science and Human Rights Program: <http://shr.aaas.org/>

- Mission: “The AAAS Science and Human Rights Program (SHRP) works with scientists to "advance science and serve society" through human rights. The Program carries out its mission by engaging individual scientists and scientific associations in human rights efforts; applying scientific tools and technologies to enhance human rights work; bringing human rights standards to the conduct of science; and promoting the human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.”
- SHRP pursues projects in four program areas:
 - **Scientists for Human Rights** engages scientists in human rights efforts through the Science and Human Rights Coalition – a partnership of scientific societies and professional associations – and projects that enlist the expertise of individual scientists through a network of *pro bono* Consultants, and Fellows and Fellowships programs. These projects provide a variety of opportunities for scientists to work with the human rights community to effectively tackle human rights challenges.
 - **Science for Human Rights** identifies practical and appropriate scientific solutions to human rights problems and transfers the requisite scientific skills to human rights organizations. SHRP currently is pursuing advanced applications of geospatial technologies to multiple human rights challenges, has begun work on wireless communications technologies, and is exploring the potential uses of other technologies, such as network mapping and budget analysis, in efforts to advance human rights.
 - **Human Rights and the Conduct of Science** fosters awareness of and respect for internationally recognized human rights norms by bringing together distinguished scientists, human rights leaders, and the public to consider the human rights implications of new technologies and scientific discoveries as well as science policy and practice.
 - **Science as a Human Right** is the right to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications” (Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights). SHRP explores how science as a human right is conceptualized and analyzes its potential to enable the realization of important global initiatives such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Anthropology

American Anthropological Association

<http://www.aaanet.org/>

Committee for Human Rights (<http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/cfhr/index.cfm>)

- Internal Purpose Statement: “To stimulate informed involvement in the human rights area among professional anthropologists through publications, panels and network building. The Committee's proposed Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights, the white papers of its task groups on ethnic cleansing and on the human rights of women are further examples, and these web pages are among the products of this effort.”
- External Purpose Statement: “To gather information on selected, anthropologically relevant, cases of human rights abuse and to propose action in the name of the American Anthropological Association to the Association's leadership. The committee's briefing documents, prepared in order to brief the Association's leadership on particular cases of human rights abuse, are one product of the external mission.”

Society for Applied Anthropology

<http://www.sfaa.net/>

Human Rights and Social Justice Committee: <http://www.sfaa.net/committees/humanrights.html>

- No substantive content available online.

Anthropology – No Findings

American Association of Physical Anthropologists

<http://www.physanth.org/>

The American Society for Ethnohistory

<http://www.ethnohistory.org>

National Association for Practicing Anthropology

<http://www.practicinganthropology.org/>

Economics – No Findings

American Economics Association
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA>

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
<http://www.aaea.org/>

Psychology

American Psychological Association

<http://www.apa.org/>

- Office of International Affairs: <http://www.apa.org/international/>
 - The office provides staff support to the [Committee on International Relations in Psychology](#) (CIRP), coordinates APA's [UN Representation](#), fosters exchange with [Divisions on international issues](#), and works to identify international policy issues relevant to the association.

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

<http://www.spssi.org>

- No explicitly HR-themed committees; SPSSI appears to work very heavily with the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science and Human Rights program (see "Umbrella Organizations," the first section of findings).

Psychology – No Findings

American Psychological Association Practice Organization

<http://www.apapractice.org/>

American Psychoanalytic Association

<http://www.apsa.org/>

Geography

Association of American Geographers

<http://www.aag.org/>

- Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights “speciality group”: <http://www.ejhr.org/>
"The Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group of the AAG exists to further inquiry into normative issues of relevance to geography, and to facilitate collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees whose areas of focus touch on these issues. The overall intent of the EJHRSG is to support inclusive and informed discussion of ethics, justice and human rights issues by geographers as a legitimate and important activity throughout the discipline."

Geography – No Findings

American Geographical Society

<http://www.amergeog.org/>

Society for Women Geographers

<http://www.iswg.org/>

History – No Findings

American Historical Association

<http://www.historians.org/>

American Society for Environmental History

<http://www.aseh.net/>

Law

American Bar Association

<http://www.abanet.org/>

- International Human Rights Committee: <http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=IC950000>
“The ABA Section of International Law established the Human Rights Committee to monitor international covenants, advocate for foreign human rights lawyers persecuted for their work, investigate human rights abuses, and to provide education about human rights issues.”

American Society of International Law

<http://www.asil.org/>

- No HR-committee per se, but there are two imminently related topical foci:
 - Development and International Law: <http://www.asil.org/development-international-law.cfm>
 - Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs: <http://www.asil.org/human-rights-humanitarian-law.cfm>
 - Each of these sites has recent publications, events/seminar information, and “research tools.”

Association of American Law Schools

<http://www.aals.org/>

- Section on International Human Rights:
https://memberaccess.aals.org/eWeb/dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=ChpDetail&chp_cst_key=30ab0712-ba72-4606-80fe-a985eb21be83
- No substantive content online.

Linguistics

American Association for Applied Linguistics

<http://www.aaal.org/>

- No HR-themed content per se; AAAL has passed resolutions concerning the protection of “linguistic rights” - e.g. against the official declaration of English as the official language of the US.

Linguistics – No Findings

Linguistic Society of America

<http://www.lsadc.org/>

Philosophy – No Findings

American Philosophical Association

<http://www.apaonline.org/>

John Dewey Society

<http://cuip.net/jds/index.php>

Radical Philosophy Association

<http://www.radicalphilosophy.org/>

Political Science

American Political Science Association

<http://www.apsanet.org/>

- Human Rights Section: <http://www.apsanet.org/~humanrights/>
“The Section on Human Rights was established to encourage scholarship and facilitate exchange of data and research findings on all components of human rights (e.g., civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental), their relationship, determinants and consequences of human rights policies, structure and influence of human rights organizations, development, implementation, impact on international conventions, and changes in the international human rights regime.”
- Large website, including a syllabi archive, survey of programs with HR foci, etc.

Social Work

National Association of Social Workers

<http://www.socialworkers.org/>

- No HR-focus per se. However, they do have a “Social and Economic Justice & Peace” section: <http://www.socialworkers.org/sections/default.asp> (the website is Flash-based, click on the appropriate section title for the page)

Social Work – No Findings

Society for Social Work and Research

<http://www.sswr.org/>

Sociology

American Sociology Association

<http://www.asanet.org/>

- Human Rights Section:

http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/sections/section_pages/section_on_human_rights

“The Section on the Sociology of Human Rights seeks to promote and support scholarship, teaching, and the fostering of an interdisciplinary, international, and critical engagement in both the sociological study of human rights as well as establishing a human rights approach to the sociological enterprise. The Sociology of Human Rights is conceived broadly and inclusively as a scholarly and human pursuit of understanding the social, political, cultural, and comparative construction of human rights histories, institutions, discourses, and futures as well as the social structures, relations, and practices that will most fully support the realization of human rights in the world. The Section on the Sociology of Human Rights encourages the growth of dialogues regarding human rights as method, as epistemology, as theory, and as praxis in the sociological understanding of the world in which we live. This section will strive to bring international perspectives to the Sociology of Human Rights globally and to the United States.

“The Section will facilitate these goals through the active support of and creation of structures, activities, and practices that promote: 1) the free exchange of ideas, experiences, research findings, pedagogical strategies, and best practices in the research on the sociology of human rights and the discussion of human rights within the sociological enterprise; 2) the collaborative development of resources dedicated to enhancing research, teaching, and practice of the sociology of human rights; 3) communication among members both nationally and internationally regarding events, practices, experiences, research, and teaching on the sociology of human rights; 4) the forging of linkages and relationships with sociology of human rights scholars across the globe, including community activists, grounded movements, communities, and individuals; and, 5) opportunities for the dissemination, distribution, and publication of research in the sociology of human rights across the world.”

Sociology – No Findings

Society for the Study of Social Problems

<http://www.sssp1.org/>