

Unrecognized Rights:

Dealing with the lack or neglect of evidence in racist police violence cases

Emma Várnagy is currently a doctoral candidate at Ghent University's Human Rights Centre where her research focuses on the lack or neglect of evidence in racist police violence cases and its consequences on accountability and legal consciousness. She is a graduate of Utrecht University's Public International Law Programme as well Central European University's Human Rights Programme. Her LLM thesis focused on the standard and burden of proof in anti-Roma violence cases in the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, and her MA thesis focused on legal avenues to tackle involuntary sterilization of Roma women. She has a background in sociology and is therefore interested in socio-legal research.

The poster created for the 3rd Young Legal Researchers Conference aims to give the viewer an overall impression of the individual PhD project, which is embedded into two larger research themes. On the one hand the researcher is part of the inter-university project titled '*Future-proofing Human Rights: Developing Thicker Forms of Accountability*' while on the other hand by virtue of her institutional affiliation she is also working alongside the ERC-funded research group titled '*DISSECT: Evidence in International Human Rights Adjudication*'. The individual PhD project is focusing both on a thematic area where the role of evidence is crucial, and a type of human rights violation where in effect the heart of the complaint, namely institutional racism, remains unrecognized and unchallenged, thereby creating an accountability gap. Within this context the poster highlights the main problem with which the research is concerned, specifically the non-recognition of the substantive discrimination element of anti-Roma police violence cases at the European Court of Human Rights. The poster also identifies the main research questions, as well as the approach of the project which places the focus not strictly speaking on the law itself, but a larger societal context of the incidents at the heart of the cases and the effects of the judgment on the individual victims of discriminative violence, their communities, and again, society as a whole. Finally, the poster briefly explains the methods that the research relies on and identifies the goal of the project as contributing to the work of legal professionals involved in the litigation and adjudication process of racist police violence cases. (261 words)