



Feb 24, 2020 11:12 GMT

Putting hate propagandists on trial

Tackling hate and fear propaganda through prosecution at international criminal tribunals and beyond was debated by a global panel of legal and social sciences experts in the field, during a recent conference at Northumbria University.

Open to members of the public, the conference explored why and how dealing with hate and fear propaganda at international criminal tribunals and beyond needs to be improved. Keynote addresses were made by an international panel of experts from countries including the USA, Australia, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and the UK. Judge Sir Howard Morrison, one of UK's most senior judges, also shared his views and expertise and experiences

as Judge at the Appeal Division of the International Criminal Court.

This symposium discussed the necessity of an improved approach to hate and fear propaganda at international criminal courts. While empirical research strongly indicates that propaganda effectively shapes the beliefs and actions of the public, these findings have not been translated into the legal sphere. Judgments at international criminal tribunals reveal substantial challenges to effective prosecution of hate propagandists resulting in unsatisfactory outcomes. Event organisers Professor Mohamed Badar and Dr Polona Florijančič, explained that because of these challenges the symposium brought together legal academics and practitioners as well as social science experts who were able to present on a multi-disciplinary range of topics.

[View embedded content here](#)

Professor Badar, Chair of Comparative & International Criminal Law at Northumbria, added: “Attracting so many distinguished experts and speakers from around the world to this two-day event reflects not merely how timely this discussion is but also how complex and intriguing it is. Ensuring the effective prosecution and prevention of hate and fear propaganda leading to mass atrocities is essential if, as an international community, we are to deliver justice for victims and prevent future large-scale crimes.

“The conference was a rare opportunity for experts and members of the public to hear the views of some of the most pre-eminent minds in this field – a number of whom have had first-hand experience of participating at propaganda trials.”

The conference covered four main themes:

- 1) The Nature, Manifestations and Effects of Hate and Fear Propaganda
- 2) The Inclusion of Social Sciences Expertise during Propaganda Trials at International Criminal Tribunals
- 3) Legal Challenges to Successful Prosecution of Hate Propagandists at International Criminal Tribunals and Calls for Reform
- 4) Ongoing Hate Propaganda in Different Regions of the World

The event also included a book launch of the ground-breaking 'Propaganda and International Criminal Law: From Cognition to Criminality', (Routledge, 2020), edited by conference speaker, Prof. Predrag Dojčinović and including the contributions of several distinguished scholars who also presented at the conference.

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focused, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. Find out more about us at www.northumbria.ac.uk --- Please contact our Media and Communications team at media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk or call +44 (0)191 227 4604 with any media enquiries or interview requests --- Our academic experts are available for interview via Globelynx, a down-the-line broadcast quality TV facility based at Northumbria's Newcastle campus. You can book the Globelynx connection at www.globelynx.com. The IFB number is 0191 603 1630.

Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



Ruth Lognonne

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

ruth.lognonne@northumbria.ac.uk

07971274253



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk