



SPS workshop 3rd term 2014-2015

Masterclass on Critical Theory and International Law: Sovereignty and Human Rights

Lecturer: Prof. Seyla Benhabib (Yale University)

Organised by: Prof. Rainer Bauböck

Dates:

Tuesday, 12 May 2015 (10:00-13:00)

Wednesday, 13 May 2015 (14:00-17:00)

Thursday, 14 May 2015 (11:00-13:00, 15:00-17:00)

Tuesday, 19 May 2015 (10:00-13:00)

Wednesday, 20 May 2015 (10:00-13:00)

Thursday, 21 May 2015 (11:00-13:00, 15:00-17:00)

Room: Emeroteca, Badia Fiesolana

Contact: Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

Register [online](#)

Credits: 20

Abstract: Sovereignty designates a concept, a practice as well as a set of institutions governing the relationship of states to one another and to their citizens and residents. It is a crucial element in the grammar of our political life since the 17th century. It means that there is an ultimate seat of public authority with the jurisdiction and capacity to exercise power over a demarcated territory – sometimes referred to as the ‘Westphalian paradigm.’ The international order since 1945 with the founding of the United Nations and the 1948 Declaration of Universal Human Rights, however, has introduced a dual-tracked normative system which justifies and limits state sovereignty in accordance with the observance of human rights. Not only does this dualistic normative commitment give rise to contradictions, but with the advance of globalization in recent decades whether states are/can be/ or even were sovereign is being debated. Concepts such as the ‘post-sovereign constellation,’ ‘disaggregated sovereignty,’ ‘contrapuntal sovereignty,’ ‘constitutionalism without the state’ abound in the literature.

This course will undertake a multi-disciplinary study of these issue by drawing in literature from political philosophy, legal theory, history, and ethics.