

# The Oxford Handbook of Economic and Social Rights

Malcolm Langford & Katharine G. Young, editors

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## Abstract

*The Oxford Handbook of Economic and Social Rights* examines the socio-economic dimensions of human rights from philosophical, historical, social scientific, and legal perspectives. Part I presents contrasting theories on the nature and justification of such rights, drawing on moral, political and critical schools of thought, and their implications for democracy, equality, and global justice. Part II collects historical accounts of the emergence, mobilisation, and appropriation of economic and social rights, from pre-statist human rights history to the postwar international order, traversing decolonization, demands for social citizenship, and the distinct regional trajectories in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. Part III provides an account of the enmeshment of these rights in political debates and institutions, tracing shifts in economic development and international relations, competing social welfare state and neoliberal models, and processes of constitutionalization and judicialization. Part IV examines the significant developments in national and international law and the legalization of economic and social rights, including doctrines of proportionality and reasonableness and the recent social rights of indigenous peoples, children and persons with disability, and their gender dimensions. Part VI explores the effects of large-scale trends on rights protection and conceptualization, including development goals, climate change, technology, urbanization and migration. With its cross-disciplinary breadth, the Handbook maps the plural and sys



7. [Social Minimums and Democracy](#)

*Frank Michelman, Harvard University*

8. [Social Constitutional Rights and Proportionality](#)

*Robert Alexy, University of Kiel*

9. [Global Justice and Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Cristina Lafont, Northwestern University*

10. [Traditions of Equality and Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Matthew Craven, University of London*

11. [Sufficiency, Equality and Human Rights](#)

*Samuel Moyn, Yale University*

***PART II. POLITICAL AND LEGAL HISTORIES***

12. The Long History of Economic and Social Rights

*Charles Walton, University of Warwick*

13. Social Citizenship and Economic and Social Rights

*Julia Moses, University of Sheffield*

14. [US Constitutionalism, Local Movements and Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Emily Zackin, Johns Hopkins University*

15. [Twentieth-Century Economic and Social Rights:](#)

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16. [Economic and Social Rights in Latin America: A Long and Unfinished March](#)

*Roberto Gargarella, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella*

17. Constitutional Debates and Courts in Central and Eastern Europe

*Adam Ploszka, University of Warsaw, Poland*

18. [Economic and Social Rights in South Asia](#)

*Rehan Abeyratne, University of Hong Kong*

19. TWAIL and Economic and Social Rights

*Balakrishnan Rajagopal, MIT*

***PART III. POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND INSTITUTIONS***

20. [Structural Transformation and Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Charles Gore, ex-UNCTAD, Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow*

21. [International Relations and Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Shareen Hertel, University of Connecticut*

22. Experimentalism and Economic and Social Rights

*Charles Sabel, Columbia Law School*

23. [Behaviorally Informed Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Varun Gauri, Princeton/Brookings*

24. Constitutionalisation of Economic and Social Rights

*Malcolm Langford, University of Oslo*

# 25. Legal Mobilisation and Economic and Social Rights

## 34. Queues and Rights

*Katharine Young, Boston College*

## 35. Corporate Responsibility and Economic and Social Rights

*Surya Deva, Macquarie University*

## 36. [Remedies and Accountability for Economic and Social Rights](#)

*Kent Roach, University of Toronto*

## 37. Extra-Territorial Obligations and Economic and Social Rights

*Helen Duffy, Leiden University*

## 38. International Mechanisms

*Vivek Bhatt, Edinburgh and Jacqueline Mowbray, University of Sydney*

## 39. Regional Mechanisms (New)

*Danwood Chirwa, University of Cape Town & Desmond Osaretin Oriakhogba, University of Venda, South Africa*

### ***PART V SELECTED RIGHTS***

## 40. [The Right to Social Security](#)

*Beth Goldblatt, University of Technology, Sydney*

## 41. [The Right to Health: Reclaiming Imperatives of Democratic Justification](#)

### 43. Labour Rights

*Virginia Mantouvalou, University College London*

### 44. The Right to Food

*Aeyal Gross and Tamar Luster, Tel Aviv University*

### 45. [The Rights to Water and Sanitation](#)

*Meg Satterthwaite, New York University Law School*

### 46. Housing as a Right

*Jessie Hohmann, University of Technology Sydney*

### 47. [Engendering Socio-economic Rights: How Far Have We Come?](#)

*Sandra Fredman, Oxford University*

### 48. Paradigms of Disability Rights

*Michael Stein, Harvard University*

### 49.

## 52. Development Goals and Economic and Social Rights

*Dan Banik and Malcolm Langford, University of Oslo*

## 53. [Climatizing Human Rights: Economic and Social Rights for the Anthropocene](#)

*Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito, University of Los Andes, New York University*

## 54. [Technologies and Social Rights](#)

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## 55. [Economic and Social Rights and the City](#)

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## 56. [Displacement and Social and Economic Rights](#)

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