

**Department of Normativity and Human Rights Research, Institute of Philosophy,  
Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia**  
and  
**Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Matej Bel University,  
Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**

We cordially invite you to an online lecture under the APVV -18-0122 project  
(The Place of Social Sciences and Humanities in Society: the Limitations and Possibilities.  
<https://www.posohu.umb.en/> )

**Lea David** (University College Dublin, UCD School of Sociology)

*The Past Can't Heal Us. The Dangers of Mandating  
Memory in the Name of Human Right.*

(Cambridge University Press, 2020)

The lecture will be held online:

**on Wednesday 16th of June 2021  
at 14:00 CET (13:00 London time)**

**Platform:** MS Teams. We kindly ask everybody who is interested to participate to register  
by sending an email to: [michal.sedik@umb.sk](mailto:michal.sedik@umb.sk) no later than 14th of June 2020 till 24:00 CET.

**About the book:**

In this innovative study, Lea David critically investigates the relationship between human rights and memory, suggesting that, instead of understanding human rights in a normative fashion, human rights should be treated as an ideology. Conceptualizing human rights as an ideology gives us useful theoretical and methodological tools to recognize the real impact human rights has on the ground. David traces the rise of the global phenomenon that is the human rights memorialization agenda, termed 'Moral Remembrance', and explores what happens once this agenda becomes implemented. Based on evidence from the Western Balkans and Israel/Palestine, she argues that the human rights memorialization agenda does not lead to a better appreciation of human rights but, contrary to what would be expected, it merely serves to strengthen national sentiments, divisions and animosities along ethnic lines, and leads to the new forms of societal inequalities that are closely connected to different forms of corruptions.

**Lea David:**

Dr. Lea David finished her PhD at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ben Gurion University, Israel. Her work examines how the transition to democracy is changing the content of collective memory in Serbia and is producing new social categories. Her dissertation explores how a contested past is managed through clashes between local and global memory cultures. She has also lectured on the conflict in the Former Yugoslav countries at various Israeli universities and colleges. Her post-doctoral research at the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research at Haifa University deals with memory politics in international relations.

for more information:

<https://people.ucd.ie/lea.david/about>

<https://ucd.academia.edu/LeaDavid>