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GENDER STEREOTYPING IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS JUDICIAL DISCOURSE

3 November 2026
12:30–13:30 CET
ZOOM WEBINAR

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ABSTRACT

The talk explores the role and impact of prejudices, stereotypes and biases (PSB) in the discourse of international human rights courts. By taking the example of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), it illustrates how PSB are conceptualised by the ECtHR and what PSB it was able to identify when general assumptions raised by States parties to justify restrictions or denial of rights protected under the European Convention on Human Rights were successfully challenged. To this end, the talk focuses on PSB involving social groups who share a common gender and/or sexual orientation in the area of sexual, parental and reproductive rights, as a good example that shows the ECtHR's possibly ambiguous approach and the continuous challenge of contrasting, also through language, the original and heteronormative interpretation of the ECHR.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE SPEAKER

Carmelo Danisi is Associate Professor of Public International Law at Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, after having been Research Fellow at the University of Sussex (UK). His main areas of research are human rights, non-discrimination, refugee law, on which he published several works including the ERC Starting Grant-monograph Queering Asylum in Europe (Springer 2021) and has carried out a number of projects, like GenDJuS - Rights and Prejudice: Linguistic and Legal Implications of Gendered Discourses in Judicial Spaces (Co-PI, 2023-2026). He is also Programme Director of the joint Bachelor of European Studies - BAES for Unibo.



The Gender Lecture Series is organized by the Gender Team of the World Trade Institute – Know the GAP!, led by Prof. Elisa Fornalé, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern

THIS EVENT IS ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE GENDER LECTURE SERIES 2026-2027

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For further information please email Dr Simone Ferrari: simone.ferrari@unibe.ch