

QUASI Seminar Series: December 10, 2021, Chat Transcript

Topic: **Do Corporations Have Human Rights Obligations?**

Yes: Judith Schrempf-Stirling; No: Nien-he Hsieh; It Depends: Tom Donaldson; In Practice: Yann Wyss

- 00:20:52 Mike Barnett: Welcome to everyone! Please place your comments and questions into the chat box here.
- 00:25:29 Sushant Bhargava: You're including negative human rights into the mix at all (makes intuitive sense), then why bring in morality too? Isn't it tangential to the self-contained construct and contradictory too
- 00:36:00 Mohamed Genawi: Thank you, Professor Schrempf-Stirling. I have enjoyed reading your published works on BHR. How would you respond to the reality that corporations are groups of [oftentimes] thousands of individuals with misaligned moral intent? Does the assumption of moral agency attributed to the corporation in this case not appear to be based on an underlying assumption of effective and perfectly aligned internal structures?
- 00:37:48 Ash Ganzoury: 🍌
- 00:51:11 Judith Schrempf-Stirling: is the picture part of the slides, or just the desktop?
- 00:55:30 Sushant Bhargava: Maybe Im missing something here, but morality revisits us. Can the panelists talk a bit about how rights and morality are linked in context of the corporation?
- 01:01:04 Maria: Didn't the US Supreme Court rule that corporations are people?
- 01:03:03 Michelle Westermann-Behaylo: To the extent that Costco sells medicine, medical devices, nutrition, does it also have duties to restore?
- 01:04:24 Nien-he Hsieh: Sorry. I forgot to show my questions. Theorizing about business and human rights in an institutional perspective. Theorizing about complicity in state violations of human rights. Theorizing about domestic companies in relation to human rights.
- 01:08:25 Judith Schrempf-Stirling: It is Human Rights Day today!
- 01:08:41 Mike Barnett: Perfect planning on my part, I assure you ;)
- 01:09:06 Maria: This is an excellent program today. Thank you to all!!
- 01:14:55 Leonid Sokolovskyy, AMBS: I think the discussion on the state vs business responsibilities in this area is really interesting. How much do we trust business to self-regulate in this area (through due diligence, etc.)? A few decades ago corporations like Nestle were seen as a major source of human rights abuse (e.g, the issue of breast milk substitutes in the 1970s and WHO code). Now these corporations are seen as major promoters/governors of HR... What has changed?

- 01:16:48 Rachel Chambers: Thank you, Mike, the speakers, and the organizers for today's interesting debate.
- 01:32:07 Cristina Neesham: A great debate - thank you everyone!
- 01:34:41 Nien-he Hsieh: This is why I think the Reggie Framework is right (no pun intended) to distinguish between respect for human rights and human rights obligations.
- 01:35:01 Judith Schrempf-Stirling: does nestle have a CSR and a human rights department? in other words, is there a difference between a CSR approach and a business and human rights approach?
- 01:37:31 Mohamed Genawi: Thanks for the interesting debate.
- 01:44:28 Emma van den Terrell: Thank you all for the very interesting insights.
- 01:44:32 Gerardus Lucas: Many thanks!
- 01:44:38 Michelle Westermann-Behaylo: Well, done—thank you!
- 01:44:48 Veronica H. Villena: I truly enjoyed the debate. Thank you so much to the panel!
- 01:44:50 Ash Ganzoury: Thank you both sides!
- 01:44:51 julia croce: Thank you!
- 01:44:51 Nien-he Hsieh: Thank you for this opportunity!
- 01:44:52 Lin Dong: Thank you very much everyone!
- 01:45:00 Jocelyn Fraser - UBC: Thanks for a fascinating discussion
- 01:45:03 Laura Brock: Thank you for a great discussion!
- 01:45:05 Aideen O'Dochartaigh: Thanks so much to all the panellists, excellent discussion
- 01:45:09 Naomi Gardberg: Thank you.
- 01:45:22 Sarah Dadush, Rutgers Law School -- she/her: Thank you, everyone, this was terrific!
- 01:45:29 Rim Bitar: Thank you very much, it is very stimulating and fascinating!