

QUASI Seminar Series, 2021-22

The [Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovation](#) (RICSI) is proud to host the Questions & Unanswers About Social Innovation (QUASI) [Seminar Series](#). To participate, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

December 10th, 2021, 11:30am – 1:00pm EST

Do corporations have human rights obligations?

Yes: [Judith Schrempf-Stirling](#), Professor of Responsible Management, Geneva School of Econ & Mgmt

1. Corporations have negative human rights obligations because they are socially connected to and complicit in human rights violations.

[Arnold, D. 2016. Corporations and Human Rights Obligations. *Business and Human Rights Journal* 1 \(2\), 255-275.](#)

[Clapham, A., & Jerbi, S. 2001. Categories of Corporate Complicity in Human Rights Abuses. *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review* 24, 339-350.](#)

[Ruggie, J.G. 2008. Clarifying the Concepts of “Sphere of influence” and “Complicity”. Human Rights Council.](#)

[Van Buren III, H. J., Schrempf-Stirling, J., & Westermann-Behaylo, M. 2021. Business and human trafficking: A social connection and political responsibility model. *Business & Society*, 60\(2\), 341-375](#)

[Werhane, P. H. 2016. Corporate moral agency and the responsibility to respect human rights in the UN Guiding Principles: do corporations have moral rights?. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 1\(1\), 5-20.](#)

[Young, I. 2006. Responsibility and global justice: A social connection model. *Social Philosophy and Policy*, 23: 102-130.](#)

2. Corporations have positive human rights obligations because they are an integral part of society and can have the leverage to ameliorate a situation.

[Bilchitz, D. \(2010\). Do Corporations Have Positive Fundamental Rights Obligations? *Theoria* 57 \(125\), 1-35.](#)

[Cragg, W. \(2010\). Business and Human Rights: A Principle and Value-Based Analysis, in *The Oxford Handbook of Business Ethics*, ed. G. G. Brenkert and T. L. Beauchamp, 267-304 \(New York: Oxford University Press\).](#)

[Kobrin, S. J. \(2009\). Private Political Authority and Public Responsibility: Transnational Politics, Transnational Firms and Human Rights. *Business Ethics Quarterly* 19\(3\): 349-74.](#)

[Wettstein, F. \(2010\). For better or for worse: Corporate responsibility beyond ‘do no harm’. *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 20\(2\), 275-283.](#)

[Wood, S. \(2012\). The Case for Leverage-Based Corporate Human Rights Responsibility. *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 22\(1\), 63-98.](#)

No: [Nien-he Hsieh](#), Kim B. Clark Professor of Business Administration, Harvard University

[Hsieh, N. 2017. Business Responsibilities for Human Rights: A Commentary on Arnold. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 2\(2\), 297-309. doi:10.1017/bhj.2017.6](#)

[Arnold, D. 2017. On the Division of Moral Labour for Human Rights Between States and Corporations: A Reply to Hsieh. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 2\(2\), 311-316. doi:10.1017/bhj.2017.9](#)

[Arnold, D. 2016. Corporations and Human Rights Obligations. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 1\(2\), 255-275. doi:10.1017/bhj.2016.19](#)

It depends: [Tom Donaldson](#), Mark O. Winkelman Professor, University of Pennsylvania

[Donaldson, T. 1989. Moral Minimums for Multinationals. *Ethics and International Affairs*, 3, 163-182. \[esp. pp. 171-175\]](#)

[Donaldson, T. 2021. How Values Ground Value Creation: The practical inference framework. *Organization Theory*, 2, 1-27 \[See especially pp. 5-10\]](#)

[Schrempf-Stirling, J., & Harry, J. V. B. I. 2020. Business and Human Rights Scholarship in Social Issues in Management: An Analytical Review. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 5\(1\), 28-55.](#)

In Practice: [Yann Wyss](#), Senior Manager, Social & Environmental Impact, Nestle

These articles, provided by the speakers, underpin their arguments. Please explore the articles in advance of the seminar. The hyperlinks may be inaccessible to some. One day, academic articles may be freely available, but for now, many are held hostage behind [paywalls](#). Please contact the authors directly for any articles you cannot access; typically, authors are very happy to share their work and appreciate the interest. Or pay the ransom to the publishers.