

Title: **Rights and Prejudice: Legal Implications of Gendered Discourses in International and European Courts (GenDJus)**

Locations: **Department of Political and Social Sciences – SPS and Forlì Campus, University of Bologna**

**Project description:**

The project is part of the research “Rights and Prejudice: Linguistic and Legal Implications of Gendered Discourses in Judicial Spaces (GenDJus)”, which was successfully proposed by the Universities of Trieste and Bologna for the Call PRIN 2022 PNRR (Strategic Emerging Topic: Human Wellbeing; Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society) and funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR) and the European Union (EU) (NextGeneration EU). It aims to promote research on inclusive societies by investigating subtle forms of discrimination, which can derive from prejudices, stereotypical views and biased attitudes in actors that are often believed to be immune from these factors, i.e. those that are at the core of the European system of human rights protection: international human rights bodies, the Court of Justice of the EU and, where relevant, the highest national courts.

At the University of Bologna, GenDJus addresses specifically the legal implications of this phenomenon to complement and inform the linguistic analysis of selected international and European case-law to be carried out by the other research unit based at the University of Trieste. It will use selected areas concerning human rights protection, such as those related to sexual, reproductive and parental rights as well as asylum, in relation to which prejudices, stereotypes and bias attitudes seem to affect judicial reasoning more prominently. It will also focus on specific groups of human rights holders, i.e. those sharing the same gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. Identifying how these conscious and unconscious attitudes influence the legal reasoning of relevant judicial bodies, while conceptualizing them under international and EU law, can contribute to their eradication. Hence, through an innovative interdisciplinary methodology, the project will advance concrete ways to improve judicial discourse(s) by avoiding the unconscious reiteration of negative attitudes against minority groups in the international/EU spheres, which jeopardize the full enjoyment of their rights.

The identification and the analysis of the relevant case law of international human rights bodies (with a specific attention to the European Court of Human Rights), the Court of Justice of the EU and, where relevant, the highest national courts will be a key task to achieve the aims of the project, along with the production of academic outputs and a strong public engagement agenda.

**Activity plan:**

The researcher to be selected will support the University of Bologna’s local research unit and will be specifically involved in the completion of milestones, as framed in the GenDJus proposal:

- a) Review of the relevant legal literature
- b) Selection, periodic review and analysis of the relevant international and European case-law
- c) Organization of training seminars
- d) Organization of public engagement activities in cooperation with local, national and international partners
- e) Co-production of expected academic and non-academic outputs

**Expected outputs:** Two co-authored contributions, either chapters for edited collections or articles for academic journals with a well-known international reputation (including ANVUR’s list of A-Journals).