

Nov 8th, 3:30 PM

# The Socialization of Human Rights as an Inroad to Protect Sacred Space

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Hammer, Leonard, "The Socialization of Human Rights as an Inroad to Protect Sacred Space" (2017). *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 4.

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# **The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy**

2017 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Nov. 8-10, 2017, Dayton, Ohio

For the archive of the conference, see [http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human\\_rights/2017/](http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2017/)

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**Research Panel:** Re-Imagining Rights

**Presenter:** Leonard Hammer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University of Arizona

**Title:** The Socialization of Human Rights as an Inroad to Protect Sacred Space

**Abstract:**

Serious problems exist for cultural heritage protection, and these problems are even more serious when accounting for the protection of sacred space and holy places. The lack of effectiveness of the majority of existing international norms and institutions will be reviewed in this paper, which shall then turn to potential sources for entrenching protection of sacred space within states.

The paper shall rely on the human right to freedom of religion or belief as the basis for upholding sacred space given an emerging broader understanding of the right within the human rights framework.

The paper shall principally focus on the means by which the human right to freedom of religion or belief can be better entrenched within a social landscape by accounting for what has been termed the socialization of human rights. The notion is that as a human right like the freedom of religion or belief becomes enmeshed within society, the grounds for protection can improve, leading to a more effective manner of protection for sacred space.

**About the presenter:**

Leonard Hammer, senior lecturer at Rothberg International School, Hebrew University, and visiting professor at University of Arizona, has expertise in international law and international human rights. His research addresses holy place protection and sacred space issues.