

# THE STRUGGLE FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY: STRATEGIES, TACTICS, OUTCOMES

20 — 21 NOVEMBER — 2025  
SNSPA , 2 Emanoil Bacaloglu St.  
Bucharest

CORPORATE  
CRIME



CONVICT  
PROTEST  
BOYCOTT  
PROHIBIT  
DIVEST

Since the rise of neoliberalism in the 1970s, an emerging global movement has coalesced to expose, confront, and construct frameworks to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations and environmental degradation. Corporate accountability strategies have increasingly widened to include a large spectrum of methods: from advocacy for national and international regulation, to criminal and civil litigations, boycotts and divestment campaigns, to truth commissions, peoples' tribunals, anti-extractivist protests, to "hacktivist" networks countering digital surveillance, political art projects, or shareholder activism, to name a few. Scholarship on corporate accountability has started to assess the results of such campaigns, particularly in the legal field. Nevertheless, holistic approaches that examine the interactions of different strategies, the way they are applied across national borders and world regions, and the conditions under which they succeed (or not) to generate accountability are largely missing. This conference seeks to broaden the current academic debates on corporate accountability by analyzing a variety of methods and assess how they have worked since the 1970s in different (and across) political and historical contexts, and with what outcomes.

- How have different (legal and non-legal) strategies and methods improved corporate accountability across national borders and world regions and across different industry sectors? What tangible impact did they have on community well-being, environmental sustainability, and social justice?
- Why and how did different social actors employ specific methods of corporate accountability in particular socio-historical contexts and in what specific chronological sequences? How did different strategies enable or hinder one another?
- What were the specific conditions under which various strategies achieved (or not) their intended results? How did various cultural, political, and economic factors impact corporate accountability tactics?
- To what extent did grassroots and community-led initiatives reshape or are currently reshaping traditional notions of corporate accountability? What alternatives did / do they provide?
- What lessons for the future can be drawn from the analysis of different campaigns, strategies, and tactics? How should we assess stories of "success" or "failure"?

# THURSDAY 20.11.2025

9:15 — 9:30

## INTRODUCTION

RALUCA GRODESCU and HENRY RAMMELT (SNSPA, Bucharest)

9.30 — 11.00

## CRITICAL APPROACHES TO CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Discussant — JOHN DALE (George Mason University)

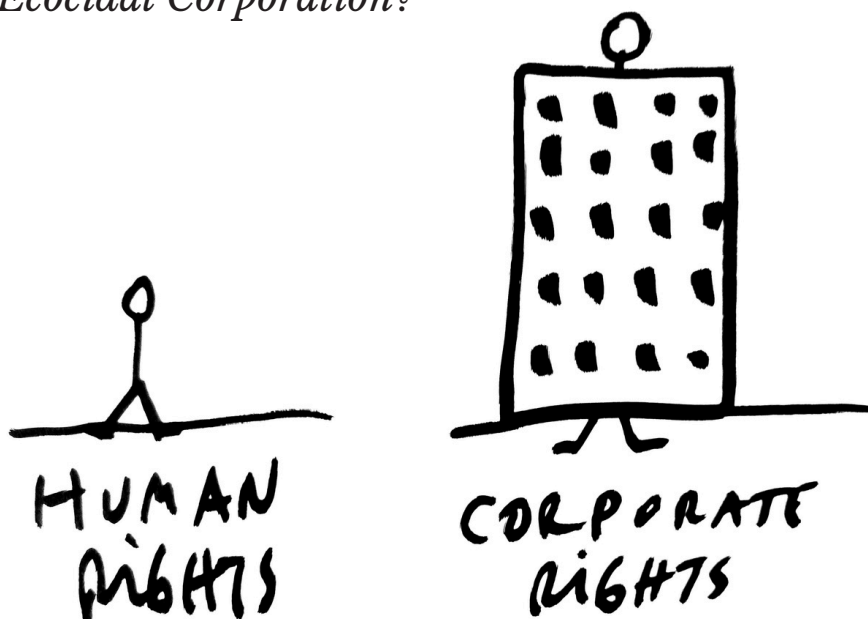
- BOBBY BANERJEE (City St George's, University of London),

*Decolonizing Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability:*

*Perspectives from Below*

- STEVE TOMBS (The Open University), *Corporate Accountability After Grenfell?*

- DAVID WHYTE (Queen Mary University of London), *Can Law Save Us from the Ecocidal Corporation?*



11:00 — 11:30

## COFFEE BREAK

11.30 — 13.00

## TRIALS AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Discussant — RALUCA GROSESCU (SNSPA, Bucharest)

- ISABEL SCHOULTZ (Lund University), SHARON WEILL (American University of Paris ), *National Trials for Extra-Territorial Crimes: Lundin and Lafarge Cases*
- VICTORIA BASUALDO (SNSPA, Bucharest/ CONICET Argentina), *National Trials in Latin America*
- RICHARD MEERAN (Leigh Day), *Multinational Human Rights Litigation: Some Strategic Insights*

13:00 — 14:30

## LUNCH

14.30 — 16.00

## CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DUE DILIGENCE LAWS

Discussant — ALEXANDRA MERCESCU (West University of Timișoara)

- DEBADATTA BOSE (UC Berkeley), *The Political Economy of Human Rights Due Diligence Laws*
- FLORENCE PALPACUER (University of Montpellier), *The Recent Integration of Legal Instruments into Activist Strategies in GVCs: Mobilizing the French Duty of Care of Multinationals in Corporate Accountability Struggles*
- CHRISTIAN SCHEPER (University of Duisburg-Essen), *Whose Accountability? Legal and Political Struggles Over Compliance with HREDD*

16:00 — 16:30

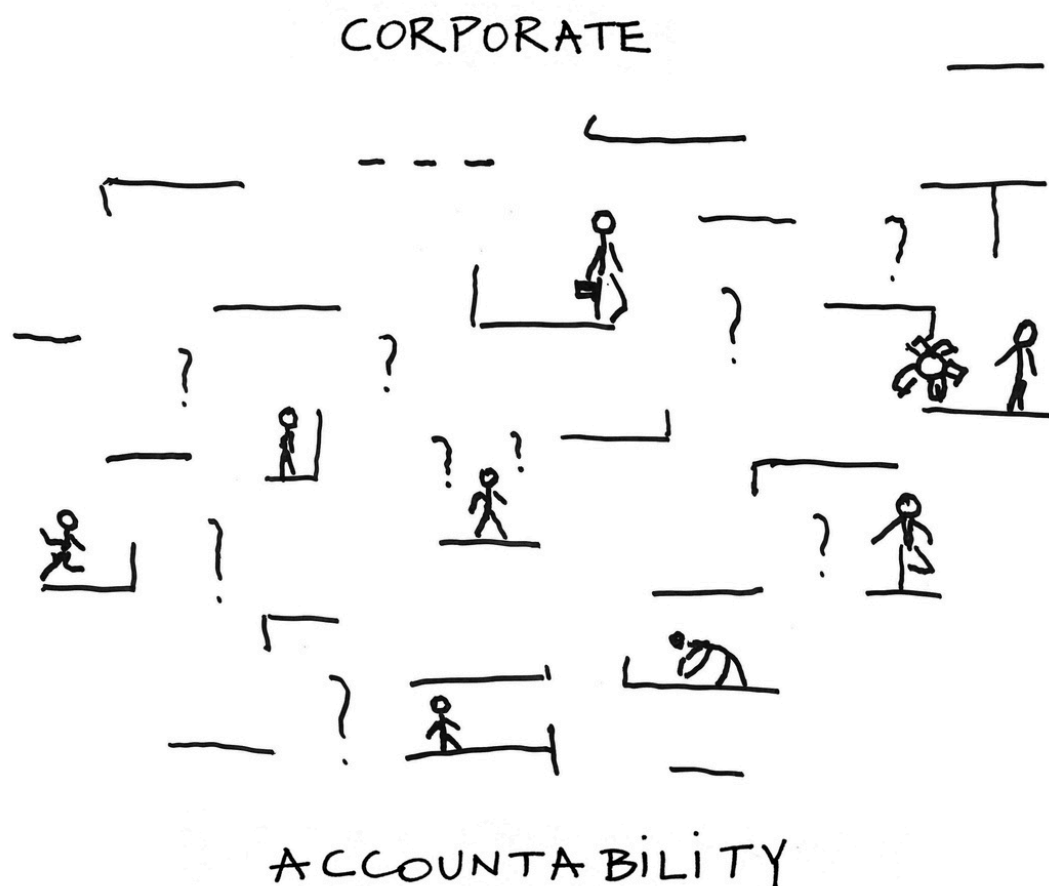
## COFFEE BREAK

16.30 — 18.00

## LABOR, CONSUMER, AND INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES

Discussant — NINA REINERS (University of Oslo)

- HENRY RAMMELT (SNSPA, Bucharest), *Consumer Activism in Global Perspective: Boycotts and Divestments as Tools to Hold Corporations Accountable for Human Rights Violations*
- MARK ANNER (Rutgers University), *The Dynamics of Interacting Labor Governance Mechanisms in Global Production*
- ROSE SPALDING (DePaul University), *Indigenous Community Consultations as a Method of Corporate Accountability (online)*



# FRIDAY 21.11.2025

9.30 — 11.00

## ASSESSING VOLUNTARY AND BINDING NORMS

Discussant — RUXANDRA IVAN (Bucharest University)

- OTGONTUYA DAVAANYAM (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg), *OECD NCPs and the Struggle for Corporate Accountability: Securing Remedies Across Borders*
- STEPHANIE KHOURY (Independent Researcher), *The Failure of Voluntary Corporate Responsibility Frameworks: Is Meaningful Accountability Possible?*
- RASUL MINJA (University of Dar El Salaam), *Evolving Landscapes of Corporate Accountability in Sub-Saharan Africa: Navigating Legal Frameworks and Activism*



11:30 — 12:00

## COFFEE BREAK

12.00 — 13.30

## CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUTH TELLING

Discussant — BOAVENTURA MONJANE (University of the Western Cape)

- HANNAH FRANZKI (ECCHR, Berlin), *Russel Tribunal II and Corporate Accountability*
- ANDRU CHIOREAN (SNSPA, Bucharest), *Peoples' Tribunals*
- LAURA BERNAL-BERMÚDEZ (Andhes University), LEIGH A. PAYNE (Oxford University) and GABRIEL PEREIRA (CONICET, Argentina), *Corporate Accountability for Past Human Rights Violations: Truth-Telling Through Official and Innovative Models in Latin America*

13:30 — 14:30

## LUNCH

14.30 — 16.00

## WHITHER CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY: PATHWAYS TO SYSTEMIC CHANGE?

Discussant — HENRY RAMMELT (SNSPA, Bucharest)

- JOHN DALE (George Mason University), *Big Tech Regulation and Accountability*
- PEER ZUMBANSEN (McGill University), *The Corporation as Witness and Accomplice (online)*



The workshop is part of the ERC-Consolidator project Transnational Advocacy Networks and Corporate Accountability for Major International Crimes. This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 101002993 – CORPACCOUNT). The project is hosted by the National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest.

## REGISTRATION

To register for the event, please write to MĂRIUCA PETRE at [corpaccount@politice.ro](mailto:corpaccount@politice.ro) by 17.11.2025 at the latest.

Graphic interventions DAN PERJOVSCHI & VASILE LEAC



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