

Assistant Professor in Human Rights, specialising in Human Rights in Transformations to Sustainability.

Our interdisciplinary Human Rights research environment

The [Division of Human Rights Studies](#) is an interdisciplinary research environment with a unique orientation towards human rights and the humanities. A core aspect of our research is a political approach to human rights, with a focus on their conditions, limitations, and potential in the contemporary world. Themes of ongoing research projects include human rights perspectives on digitization, the climate transition, water security, and children's political participation.

We seek a candidate to develop a research program within the theme *Human Rights in Transformation to Sustainability*. Human rights are grounded in the idea that individuals have justified and enforceable claims in relation to the institutions that shape their lives. At the same time, the world faces crucial challenges in transforming societies toward a sustainable and just future, in light of climate change, growing inequalities, geopolitical conflicts, and energy-intense AI-technology. The thematic focus of this call is the role of human rights in societal transformations towards a sustainable future.

Human Rights Studies coordinates [Lund University's Human Rights Profile Area](#), a hub for excellence in interdisciplinary research, education and external collaboration on human rights, where human rights and sustainability is a strong theme. Human Rights Studies is partner in the university's highly successful [Agenda 2030 Graduate School](#) and we are planning for the initiation of a Graduate School on Human Rights in a Polarised World, in collaboration with Swedish and international universities. We are actively involved in [Lund Environmental Humanities Hub](#), a platform for international collaboration and visibility of research centring the human perspective on major environmental issues.

The role and responsibilities of the Assistant Professor

Societies need to transform towards sustainability as a matter of urgency, but efforts are backsliding in a polarized world with growing inequalities, a disregard for international law, and an authoritarian turn away from democracy. The successful candidate will contribute to global excellence by bringing their expertise and intellectual curiosity to our concerted interdisciplinary research agenda for human rights as tools in fair and accountable transformative change.

We believe that excellence requires a collegial and respectful work culture, characterised by peer support and intellectual curiosity. The Assistant Professor will be integrated in active research teams and will have access to research infrastructure, administrative support, and career mentorship and will be affiliated with the Human Rights Profile Area, which offers wide networks for collaboration. Through teaching and supervision on our interdisciplinary education programs in Human Rights Studies – on undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels – they will gain experience and develop pedagogical skills within a supportive and engaged team.

The department is committed to supporting the new colleague in developing an independent and strategically important research field with long-term career perspectives. The candidate will be expected to build networks, gain international visibility, and further enhance our competitiveness for external research grants.