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Furthering the fight against impunity in Latin America: the contributions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to domestic accountability processes

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

**FURTHERING THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY
IN LATIN AMERICA**

*The contributions of the Inter-American Court
of Human Rights to domestic accountability processes*

by Hanna Bosdriesz

1. The future of the international fight against impunity is domestic.
2. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has been a vital but under examined protagonist in the international fight against impunity since the late 1980s.
3. The contributions of the IACtHR – or any international court – to domestic accountability processes cannot be fully understood using a compliance-based approach.
4. In studying domestic accountability processes, a focus on trials and convictions excludes from our view the crucial earlier stages of the ‘process of justice’.
5. International scholarship on the IACtHR’s anti-impunity case law focuses excessively on the prohibition of amnesty, which is only one aspect of the broader obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish.
6. Rather than enforcing an individualized and decontextualized perspective on systemic violence, the IACtHR has successfully promoted the practice of ‘contextual analysis’ in Guatemala and Colombia.
7. Rather than ‘aligning’ themselves with the state, those who lead the fight against impunity on the domestic level often face stiff opposition from (parts of) the State and its repressive apparatus.
8. Unfortunately, the IACtHR’s jurisprudence on the obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish human rights violations will remain as relevant as ever in the foreseeable future.
9. A PhD track is a great time to have a child. However, the first year(s) after having a child is not a great time to finish a PhD.

