

Collective human rights as an (onto)logical solution to climate change: reconceptualizing, applying and proceduralizing an overlooked category of human rights
Holtz, J.I.

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

COLLECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN (ONTO)LOGICAL SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

*Reconceptualizing, Applying, and Proceduralizing an Overlooked
Category of Human Rights*

by J.I. Holtz

1. The singular, naturalist ontological roots of individual human rights embed dominant structures that have contributed to climate change and hence constrain their effectiveness in the climate context.
2. Anthropology offers essential tools for re-interpreting and diversifying human rights to counteract the biases contained in the universalizations of human rights.
3. The current human rights discourse must be substantively and/or procedurally pluralised to tackle the inequality divide between the Global North and Global South particularly in light of the climate change cause/effect disparity.
4. An ontological lens is a vital tool in the critical human rights assessment of new climate 'solutions' to ensure the long-term sustainability of such solutions.
5. The furtherance of collective human rights within the human rights and climate change discourse is relevant for both contributing to different, more effective, climate solutions, and for strengthening the shield of collectives against naturalist expansion.
6. Collective human rights must be regarded as a vehicle towards ontological flexibility within international human rights law.
7. The collective, as supported by the collective rights discourse, must be regarded an object-subject hybrid entity, where 'peoples' for the purpose of collective rights are identified on the basis of a 'closeness' to a 'common good'.
8. The human rights and climate change discourse dismisses the value of the 'local' by utilizing the beyond-the-state and more-than-the-individual characteristics of collective human rights to universalize the collective in order to match the scale of the climate crisis: a global problem demands a global solution. In this way, the discourse contributes to ontological erasure.
9. Collective human rights go hand-in-hand with an expansion of duty bearers which includes non-state actors.
10. By embedding the interests of nature and future generations within the collective, collective human rights can spur more preventative action to combat climate change.
11. Of all substantive collective human rights, the right to self-determination has the greatest potential for the climate context due to its relatively uncontested legal status, its ontological compatibility in providing protection of a destiny against subjugation, exploitation and domination, and inclusion of the prohibition to not deprive a people of their of means of subsistence.
12. "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." (James Baldwin)