

Exam text of HUMR 5191 Winter 2015

Choose and answer **one** of the two questions below.

1. Formulate a research project for an MA thesis on human rights studies. The paper should identify the research problem, address it in the context of the wider research field (literature review), state the main research question (and sub-question/s) and, if preferred, hypothesis/es. The paper should also suggest the theoretical orientation of the project, identify and justify methods to be used - including mixed methods and triangulation, and entail a short research plan. Discuss the disciplinary approach of the project. You should also discuss the availability and relevance of data and address their assumed credibility for your research.

2. Discuss the established practice of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR or Court) under Rule 61 of its Rules to issue pilot judgments which address potential systemic or structural violations of human rights in a member State. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of this new methodology under international law by discussing the practice of pilot judgments more generally, or by selecting a particular judgment of the Court on a specific issue, for example 'excessive length of proceedings and lack of domestic remedy'. The analysis needs to take into account other methodologies used in international law.

For more information on pilot judgments and cases see the ECtHR factsheet at http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Pilot_judgments_ENG.pdf (attached as Annex 1).