

Penelope Simons

Professor, Faculty of Law at University of Ottawa

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Penelope Simons has been engaged in research on corporate human rights accountability for over a decade.

Biography

Prior to taking up her position at the Faculty of Law, Penelope was a Senior Lecturer in Law at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK. She was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1996 and practiced corporate/commercial law with McCarthy Tétrault LLP. She has also worked in the nongovernmental sector on peace and disarmament issues.

Penelope has been engaged in research on corporate human rights accountability for over a decade. In December 1999 she participated in the Canadian Assessment Mission to Sudan (the Harker Mission), appointed by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to investigate allegations of slavery as well as links between oil development in Sudan and violations of human rights. Her current research is focused on the human rights implications of domestic and extraterritorial corporate activity, state responsibility for corporate complicity in human rights violations, as well as the intersections between transnational corporate activity, human rights and international economic law.

She is the co-author with Audrey Macklin of *The Governance Gap: Extractive Industries, Human Rights, and the Home State Advantage* (Routledge, 2014) which examines the human rights implications of corporate activity in zones of weak governance and argues for home state regulation. She is also a co-author with J. Anthony VanDuzer and Graham Mayada of *Integrating Sustainable Development into International Investment Agreements: A Guide for Developing Country Negotiators* (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2013), a book that discusses ways in which international investment treaties could be reimagined to address more effectively the sustainable development concerns of party states.

Penelope teaches international human rights law, business organizations, public international law and a course on transnational corporations, human rights and international trade and investment law.

Areas of Expertise

Business and Human Rights, Corporate Social Responsibility, International Human Rights Law, Transnational Corporations Human Rights and International Economic Law

Education

University of Cambridge

Ph.D. Law

University of Cambridge

L.L.M. Law

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