

Richard A. Wilson, Ph.D.

Gladstein Chair and Professor of Anthropology and Law at University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT, US

Dr. Wilson is an expert on hate speech and incitement on social media.

Biography

Richard Ashby Wilson is the Gladstein Distinguished Chair of Human Rights and Professor of Anthropology and Law, and founding director of the Human Rights Institute.

Wilson is the author or editor of ten books on anthropology, international human rights, and post-conflict justice institutions such as truth and reconciliation commissions and international criminal tribunals. His articles have been published in *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Anthropological Theory*, *Current Anthropology*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, and the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, as well as in media outlets such as *The Independent*, *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and the *Washington Post*. His last book, *Writing History in International Criminal Trials*, selected by Choice in 2012 as an “Outstanding Academic Title,” analyzed the ways in which international prosecutors and defense attorneys marshal historical evidence to advance their cases. He has served as editor of the *Journal of Anthropological Theory* and associate editor of the *Journal of Human Rights*.

Having received his BSc. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, Professor Wilson held faculty positions in anthropology at the Universities of Essex and Sussex, as well as visiting professorships at the Free University-Amsterdam, University of Oslo, the New School for Social Research and the University of the Witwatersrand. He has held prestigious fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He has consulted for various policy agencies including UNICEF in Sierra Leone and he served as Chair of the Connecticut State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 2009-2013.

His forthcoming book examines international efforts to prosecute political leaders and media figures who incite others to acts of ethnic and racial violence and genocide, titled “Incitement On Trial: Prosecuting International Speech Crimes” (Cambridge University Press, 2017). In 2017-18 he will be a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, writing about incitement and hate speech in the United States since 2016.

Areas of Expertise

Human Rights, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions , Anthropology, Human rights trials, International Human Rights, International Criminal Tribunals

Affiliations

American Anthropological Association, Political and Legal Anthropology Section, American Ethnological Association, American Bar Association (Associate, ABA International Law Section), American Society of International Law, Association of Social Anthropologists, United Kingdom and the Commonwealth (ASA), Connecticut Bar Association, Law and Society Association

Education

London School of Economics and Political Science
Ph.D. Anthropology

London School of Economics and Political Science
B.Sc. Economics

The Johns Hopkins University
Natural Sciences and Anthropology

Accomplishments

Malinowski Memorial Award
1990

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