

TESTIMONY

9th Edition - Young Researchers Summit on Business and Human Rights

29-30 August 2024, Geneva University

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Participating in the 9th edition of the Young Researchers Summit on Business and Human Rights, that took place from 29-30 August 2024 in Geneva, was an extraordinary and transformative experience that profoundly shaped both my academic and professional journey. The summit offered a rare and invaluable opportunity to present my research on business and human rights to an audience of early-career researchers and distinguished scholars who are at the forefront of this critical field. The detailed, constructive feedback I received was not only insightful but also deeply encouraging, helping me to refine my ideas and sharpen the focus of my PhD research.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the summit was the diversity of voices and perspectives in the room. The twelve participants came from various disciplines, regions, and professional backgrounds, each bringing unique experiences and expertise to the discussions. This diversity created a vibrant and intellectually stimulating environment where conversations ranged from cutting-edge methodologies in business and human rights research to deeply rooted, systemic challenges on business and human rights across different sectors and geographies.

The debates highlighted emerging themes such as just and fair transitions, global governance in the context of artificial intelligence, corporate responsibility in authoritarian regimes and the impacts of social and environmental crises on vulnerable communities.

The environment of mutual support and intellectual curiosity reinforced my understanding of the global landscape of business and human rights and underscored the need for context-specific, interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to address pressing issues on our field.

Beyond the academic insights, the connections I made during the summit were profoundly meaningful. Meeting like-minded researchers from around the world—each passionately committed to advancing human rights in business—created a strong sense of community and shared purpose. The opportunity to engage with peers on a personal level, exchange experiences, and explore diverse methodologies enriched my perspective and gave me a renewed sense of motivation and inspiration.

The organizers not only ensured a meticulously curated and high-quality program but also created moments of meaningful exchange outside the formal sessions. The setting in Geneva, with its rich history and vibrant community, added an extra layer of significance to the experience. The informal gatherings, walks through the city, and shared meals with other participants created spaces for deeper connections and reflections, making the summit a memorable experience.

I am profoundly grateful to the organizers for their vision, care, and commitment to fostering such a special event, as well as for their generosity in creating opportunities for us to connect with one another and with the broader context of Geneva. I am equally grateful to my fellow participants for their openness in sharing their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives, which made this journey so rewarding and impactful.