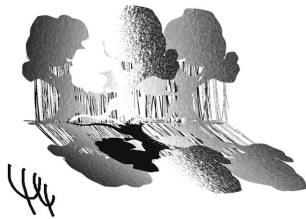


新しいスタッフの紹介



自己紹介・ Introduction

Dilton Ribeiro



A Little About Myself

I was born in a small town in the Northeast of Brazil, in the state called Bahia. I still remember reading about my city in a national newspaper when I was in high school. For that writer, only sufficed to mention that an accident had happened “in a city with a redundant name”. This report in a national newspaper reminded us of where we were and where we stood in Brazil. The Northeast is the poorest part of Brazil. Being from a semi-arid and poor city means that even though I was of a somewhat middle-class family, we were still far from any of the comforts and opportunities of the central cities. As to see cows or horses on the streets were common sights, so was not having running water for days. In my country, the word “Northeast” comes with a strong prejudice attached to it, as it is the poorest and most African-influenced area of Brazil. Moreover, my hometown’s reductant name “Victory of Conquest” painfully reminds us of the extermination of the indigenous population that used to live there. However, although this place has a complex history, it is also

culturally very rich. Bahia is the birthplace of samba, capoeira, tropicalia, and of Joao Gilberto (one of the founders of bossa nova) .

Moreover, I have been extremely lucky. Back then and until now, I've met people who supported and believed in me. I got a scholarship to study at a private school and at an English language after-school thanks to my family's support. As fate would have it, I was blessed so many times along the way. These scholarships paved the way to help me go to a public university and get an undergraduate degree in law. Due to another scholarship, I was able to move to Canada where I pursued a Master of Laws and a Ph.D. in Law specializing in human rights, international law, and legal theory. There, I also worked as a teaching fellow and research assistant. I also became a Canadian Permanent Resident.

With prospects of a governmental job, my life seemed settled in Canada. However, some things were still echoing in the back of my mind. After I had finished defending my doctoral dissertation, one of the invited professors – from a different department – briefly mentioned to me that my work would have been really interesting if I had given a social sciences spin to it. I kept thinking about that sentence he said. I couldn't shake it off: "What would have been different?". I simply did not know. Moreover, during my doctoral studies, I had the opportunity to come to Japan twice to conduct some research on human rights. That experience in Japan also shook me. I dreamed about coming back to Japan one day. I did not know how to explain why I longed to be back in Japan. I just felt at home. Once, I returned to Canada after my second time in Japan, in 2014, I started

to study the Japanese language.

One day, I mustered the courage to come back to Japan and study social sciences. I was lucky to get another scholarship to pursue a Master of Arts in 2017. I came to Japan to learn more about social sciences and how to combine empirical research with my theoretical background in law. I took courses in Japanese law, peace studies, policy studies, and qualitative research, among others. I also kept studying the Japanese language. Although I took many courses on social sciences and empirical research, when it was time to write the M.A. thesis, I wrote a philosophical approach to offenses and limits on state action.

After finishing my M.A., I worked as an Assistant Professor by Special Appointment in Tokyo. During that time, I taught courses and was a full-time member of the university's Social Science and Research Institute. I was also responsible for editing the English language section of the Journal of Social Sciences and assisted other professors in organizing events and symposia.

Between 2022 and 2023, I briefly shifted gears and worked outside of academia. During that time, I worked in legal consultancy and business development for a creative studio dealing with animation, manga, illustration, music, dubbing/voice-over, and video production. Since April 2023, I'm extremely happy and honored with the opportunity to join Rikkyo University. I have been blessed many times along my journey and I'm now been blessed once again. I hope to give back to the Rikkyo community as much as I can.

A Little About My Research Interests

My LL.M. and Ph.D. focused on human rights and international law. I looked into the role of the human person, that is, individuals, at the international level. For the LL.M., I addressed the possibility of individual standing before the International Court of Justice. For the Ph.D., I took a more theoretical approach and analyzed how we can coincide the notion of human rights, an individual-centric approach, with international law, a state-based legal system. I focused on the pro-homine principle, as the center element of international human rights law.

My current research interest follows the steps of my doctoral dissertation taking a deeper look into the pro-homine principle as it was developed in Latin America and is a key decision-making reasoning of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. I'm specifically interested in how the court of the Inter-American Human Rights System decides hard cases, that is, cases without a clear answer in comparison with its European counterpart, that is, the European Court of Human Rights. Writings on this topic in Latin America, where the pro-homine principle in its form adopted by human rights courts was developed, follow descriptive approaches. In other words, the pro homine principle is explained based on legal doctrines and the American Convention on Human Rights. When not explained in terms of the American Convention, the pro-homine principle follows an approach that seeks to explain the relationship between rules outside the Kelsenian formula. My research follows two approaches. In the first aspect, I seek to understand how the Inter-

American Court of Human Rights, in comparison with its European counterpart, decides hard cases. Secondly, I analyze such decisions taking into account “law as integrity” and legal philosophy rooted in interpretation.

A Little About What I Would Like to Contribute to Rikkyo

Walking the Rikkyo Ikebukuro campus for the first time was a mix of different emotions: I felt the excitement of being part of an excellent research and teaching institution, the thrill of wondering how I can contribute to law and education, and I felt the responsibility to do my very best and assist students reaching their very best.

I want to help students think critically about the world and the law. I will do my best to help students prepare for domestic and global markets that require a global and “out of the box” perspective. As a “human rights person”, I want my students to care about the world, from caring about themselves and their local environment to caring about international issues.