Culture and Rights
scepticism, hostility, mutuality

Wed 13 and Thurs 14 June 2012
New Law School, University of Sydney
Reception, Tuesday 12 June, 5.30 pm Macleay Museum

For Symposium details, submission of abstracts and registration:
http://anthropologycultureandrights.wordpress.com
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CULTURE vs RIGHTS
Locked in mutually antagonistic embrace
Join the debate!

CULTURE: practices against which rights must be asserted - but also the ground from which rights gain meaning
HUMAN RIGHTS: key sites of global regimes of accountability; local struggles over resources; moral and political capital as advocacy, local empowerment

✔ The rights side: ‘culture’ = unfreedom; a disguise through which entrenched forms of power and exploitation operate
✔ The culture side: ‘rights’ = universalising of ‘humanity’, concealing powerful interests and imposing uniformity

Implications of the embrace?
• Global governance + rights = anxiety + scepticism
• Rights discourse is mobilised in social and political contexts
• Anthropologists critique ‘rights discourse’ but is increasing mediated by it

Register now! Send an Abstract!
• Can rights guarantee sociality, or vice versa?
• De-humanising persons and their bodies
• Politics, culture and citizenship
• Who is the ‘human’ in human rights?
• Migrants/refugees: Rights? Culture?
• Contesting the value of environments
• The epidemiology of poverty and health
• Quests for identity

Keynote Speaker
Professor Samuel Martinez
Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut

Culture - History - Rights and Responsibilities