

NEWS RELEASE



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Human rights expert Rodolfo Stavenhagen to speak at Laurier

WATERLOO – Mexican sociologist and human rights expert Rodolfo Stavenhagen will deliver a lecture at Laurier's Waterloo campus March 15. The lecture, titled "First Peoples or Last Nations: The Struggle for Indigenous Rights," begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre.

During his time as United Nations (UN) special rapporteur, Stavenhagen's reports on the state of Indigenous rights in various parts of the world provided crucial support for Aboriginal communities seeking to defend their lands, cultures and livelihoods.

"At a time when the struggles of First Nations communities here in Canada are so much in the news, Dr. Stavenhagen brings a perspective that allows us to situate those struggles in a global context," said Associate Professor of Global Studies Alex Latta. "We are thrilled that Dr. Stavenhagen is making this visit to share his insight into the emergence of international norms around the rights of Indigenous peoples."

From 2001 to 2008, Stavenhagen served as the first UN special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples. He has been assistant-director general for social sciences and their applications at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and is currently vice-president of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. In Mexico, he founded the General Directorate for Popular Cultures in the Ministry of Public Education and the Mexican Academy of Human Rights. Stavenhagen is also the author of numerous books and articles in English, Spanish and French. He is professor emeritus of Sociology at El Colegio de México.

This event is sponsored by Laurier Professor of Global Studies Rhoda Howard-Hassmann as part of her Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights lecture series.

The talk is free and open to the public. Visit <http://www.wlu.ca/maps/martin.php> to view a map of campus and the Paul Martin Centre. For more information, contact Latta at alatta@wlu.ca.