



217th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 20 February 2019

Professor Philippe Sands

‘East West Street’: on the origins of genocide and crimes against humanity, on the individual and the group.



ABSTRACT

When he receives an invitation to deliver a lecture in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, international lawyer Philippe Sands begins a journey on the trail of his family’s secret history. In doing so, he uncovers a series of unlikely coincidences that lead him halfway across the world, to the origins of modern international law, in the 1945 ‘moment’ and at the Nuremberg trial. His research interweaves the stories of the two Nuremberg prosecutors (Hersch Lauterpacht and Rafael Lemkin) who invented the legal concepts of ‘genocide’ and ‘crimes against humanity’, the Nazi governor responsible for the murder of thousands in and around Lviv (Hans Frank), exploring the way in which international law oscillates between the protection of the individual and the group. In this talk, he explores the enduring consequences of the ideas of Lemkin and Lauterpacht, and the challenges they face today.

BIOGRAPHY

Philippe Sands is Professor of Law at University College London and a practising barrister at Matrix Chambers. He appears as counsel before international courts and tribunals, and sits as an arbitrator. He is the author of several books on international law, including most recently East West Street: On the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide, winner of the 2016 Baillie Gifford Prize, the 2017 British Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and the 2018 Prix Montaigne. He is currently writing the sequel, which is the subject of the recent BBC Radio 4 podcast, The Ratline.

LINKS

<https://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/member/philippe-sands/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippe_Sands

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

Non-members welcome

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.
Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.