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# Breaking the Chain of Human Rights Abuse

| An interview with Professor Galit Sarfaty  
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## What are the human rights violations of globalization?

I'm particularly interested in the human rights impacts of economic globalization. So in the case of the World Bank, I studied the organizational culture of this institution which is devoted to poverty reduction, and tried to understand why the Bank has not adopted a human rights policy. And I found by going inside the institution, conducting field work and interviews, there have been a number of bureaucratic obstacles that have been impeding the Bank's adoption of a human rights policy. And by not having a policy, the Bank can't provide redress to victims of potential human rights violations, conduct some kind of impact assessment ahead of time to make sure their projects won't affect local peoples negatively. We address the bureaucratic obstacles, we address the leadership issues, the incentive system that's been existing at the Bank for so many years - and that really needs to be shifted in order to have a greater promotion of human rights.

## How are global supply chains linked to human rights?

So my current research is about global supply chains and human rights. We know in the news, there's been a number of tragedies and these tragedies result from third-party suppliers of multinational firms that are operating with very poor working conditions. I've been looking at the role of law and particularly domestic legislation to require companies to disclose their list of suppliers, disclose their efforts to rid their supply chain of human rights violations, and for ultimately NGO's and consumers to then put pressure on these companies to change their practises.

## What is the ultimate goal of your research?

The ultimate goal is to change corporate behaviour on human rights practises and the most effective way of doing so, in my opinion, is by leveraging the power of consumers. The issue that I have found in my research is that the information that is mandated by these laws is often too complex for consumers to understand. So the laws that I'm studying are aimed at giving consumers the best information, the most reliable trustworthy information whittled in the right type of format in order for them to compare between companies and choose those companies that have the most responsible supply chain practises.