



**Dr. Jose Antonio García Sáez**  
***The Case of Franz Neumann as Advisor to the US Government on the  
Nuremberg Trials***

**15 May 2024, 15:30-16:30, Room 014**

During the 1940s, Franz Neumann, Otto Kirchheimer and Herbert Marcuse, German exiled scholars closely linked to the Frankfurt School, worked as advisors to the US government, specifically to the Research and Analysis Branch within the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). From there, they contributed to the war effort against fascism, to the preparation of the Nuremberg trials and also to the design of post-conflict management and the restoration of democratic order in Germany by writing a number of reports.

Only when those documents were declassified in the 1970s, together other sources, such as the correspondence between OSS members or subsequent interviews, has it been possible to reliably determine the authorship of some of the reports. In 2013 Raffaele Laudani compiled the reports written by Neumann, Marcuse and Kirchheimer in a book (*Secret Reports on Nazi Germany*, Princeton UP). Our research proposal has the specific objective of analyzing systematically the content of these reports together with the main theoretical works produced by these three thinkers during the forties and fifties. This talk, however, will be mainly focused in the figure of Franz Neumann. We do this on the premise that the biographical and cultural background of an author is essential to understand his work in depth.

In this way, we try to offer a more concrete, tangible and coherent explanation of Frankfurt School insights on international law and International Relations (IR). From this analysis derives another —perhaps more important— objective: using the critical potential of these Frankfortian authors to elaborate new conceptual and methodological categories from which to address the contemporary problems for a philosophy of international law and IR.



**About the Speaker**

Dr. Jose Antonio García Sáez is a permanent professor of Philosophy of Law and Politics at the University of Valencia (Spain). His main fields of research are the Philosophy of International Law and the Theory of Human Rights. He has worked extensively on European émigrés in the United States in the mid-twentieth century: Hans Kelsen, Hans J. Morgenthau, Hannah Arendt, or Franz Neumann. His latest book is *Hans J. Morgenthau. La paz por medio de la diplomacia* (Trotta, 2023).

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