Dr Kirsty Gover (IILAH, Melbourne Law School) will convene this seminar.

Greece, Bulgaria and Macedonia deny the existence in their territory of some national minorities that are perceived as “taboos” by domestic public opinion and official national histories. In recent years, these non-recognized minorities have successfully appealed to the European Court of Human Rights which has effectively recognized their existence. The states are expected to execute these judgments by registering the corresponding minority associations, but seem reluctant to do so. The speaker will describe the Sisyphean struggles of these minorities to impose upon the states to show the fundamental respect to their dignity they are entitled to and the reasons why two decades later very little has been achieved.

Dr Panayote Dimitras is a founding member of the non-governmental organizations ‘Minority Rights Group – Greece’ (1992), the Greek affiliate to Minority Rights Group International and the ‘Greek Helsinki Monitor’ (1993). Dr Dimitras has worked for seventeen years researching, monitoring, reporting, and advocating for minority rights; co-authored a country study on Roma in Greece, and jointly submitted parallel reports on Greece to UN CERD, UN CESCR, UN CAT, UN CRC, UN HRC, UN CEDAW, ECRI, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities; as well as applications or communications or third party interventions to the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee for Social Rights, and the UN Human Rights Committee. Dr Dimitras has published extensively and has a BA with First Class Honors, a Masters in Public Administration and a PhD in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University.

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Wednesday, 17 August 2011
VENUE: Room 920, Level 9
        Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street Carlton
TIME: 6.00 - 7.15pm (Light refreshments at 5.30pm)
RSVP: vesnas@unimelb.edu.au
      03 8344 6589