**TITLE OF THE RESEARCH THESIS PROPOSAL:** Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**DIRS DOCTORATE PROGRAMME:** Human Rights

**HOST RESEARCH UNIT (website link):**
Pedro Arrupe Institute of Human Rights

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE RESEARCH THESIS PROPOSAL:**
One of the major developments in the field of human rights, both at domestic and at international level, has been the progressive recognition of indigenous peoples as subjects of rights rather than as mere objects of protection. Against the background of the historical injustices and structural exclusion suffered by indigenous peoples, International Human Rights Law has become a useful tool to advance their rights and to promote their own views of justice.

**MAIN RESEARCH AIMS:**
- To analyze the scope of the evolution of the rights of indigenous peoples
- To identify the main obstacles to the effective implementation of their human rights
- To develop means and strategies to be used by indigenous peoples to defend their rights both at domestic and at international level

**THESIS DIRECTOR(S):** Felipe Gómez Isa

**EXCELLENCE**

5 Main academic publications related to the topic (impact factor or other quality assessment criteria):

**Main projects developed by the directors related to the topic (especially European projects)**
- *El Caso de la Comunidad Indígena Awas Tingni (Nicaragua): derechos humanos entre...*
lo local y lo global. Felipe Gómez Isa fue el investigador principal de este proyecto aprobado por el Departamento de Educación y Universidades del Gobierno Vasco (2011-2012)
- Proyecto CONSOLIDER, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (2011-2014), dirigido por la Universidad Carlos III de Madrid y en el que han participado los Institutos de Derechos Humanos más relevantes de España, incluyendo el de Deusto.
- JUSTIP, Justice and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights, aprobado por el Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique de Francia (CNRS) en diciembre de 2016 (para 4 años)

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

**Description of the different knowledge areas that the research proposal integrates:**
Candidates might cover areas of law, sociology of the law, and legal anthropology

**Other mechanisms different from co-direction to implement the interdisciplinarity:**
- Use of critical legal theories
- Methodology courses in different disciplines and approaches
- Combination of methodological approaches for case studies
- Working in an interdisciplinary environments (such as the host institution) or visiting Institutes with a different discipline environment from that of the PhD student

**INTERNATIONALIZATION**

**Relationship with H2020 topics or ERC bottom-up initiatives:**
- Reversing Inequalities H2020-SC6-REV-INEQUAL-2016-2017
- Topics relating to justice, diversity and exclusion

**International mention:** The network of international contacts of the university would be used to facilitate international stays abroad

**International co-direction or international “co-tutelle”:** Partner Universities in the international projects and proposals that are mentioned in this description could be approached for establishing international “co-tutelle” agreements

**INTERSECTORIALITY**

**Description of the social impact of the research:** The proposed research would have an impact not only on the advancement of knowledge regarding complex issues in the area of human rights, diversity and indigenous peoples, but also in the methodologies and collaboration dynamics between the academia and the third sector (NGOs and CSOs working on xenophobia and racism, development cooperation, and exclusion and marginalization). Knowledge-based approaches to these issues are a political priority.

**Name of the social agent:** ALBOAN (it has an increasing interest in cooperating on the issue of indigenous peoples’ rights. Actually, the Institute of Human Rights of Deusto is cooperating with ALBOAN in the context of the UN Fellowship Programme for Indigenous Leaders since 2000)

**RELATED ON-GOING PROJECT**

The PhD thesis proposal will be connected with the following research projects: JUSTIP,
**Justice and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights**, aprobado por el Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique de Francia (CNRS) en diciembre de 2016 (para 4 años)

**EMPLOYABILITY OR FUTURE CAREER POSSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH POSITION:**
- International Organisations
- International, national and local public administration (technical bodies)
- Academic sector
- Civil Society Organisations
- Consultancy firms