



INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONFLICT: AN ENDURING TENSION?

Under the honorary presidency of her
Majesty the Queen of Spain

ESIL XXI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

Dates

3 – 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF MÁLAGA

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WELCOME FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Dear Conference Participants, dear Friends and Colleagues,

Five hundred years ago, in the lecture halls of Salamanca, a Dominican friar from Burgos began to ask whether the conquest of the Indies could be squared with any idea of a law common to peoples. Francisco de Vitoria's answer laid the foundations of what we now call international law. Almost five centuries later, the European Society of International Law gathers in Spain in 2026, the year of the V Centenary of the School of Salamanca, to ask a question Vitoria himself could hardly have avoided: is the relationship between international law and conflict an enduring tension at the heart of our discipline?

With that question in mind, we welcome you to the Universidad de Málaga, the venue of the 21st Annual ESIL Conference. The temptation today is to read the present as exceptional: a sudden break between a past of orderly multilateralism and a future of disordered confrontation. The history of our discipline argues otherwise. International law was not built in a peaceful interlude only to be threatened by today's wars; it has coexisted with conflict from the start. What is new is the spread of conflict across many fronts at once: international and non-international armed conflicts running in parallel; multilateral institutions openly contested by some of their own architects; economic confrontation taking over as the default register of diplomacy; hostilities moving into cyberspace; and the gradual rewriting of legal categories by artificial intelligence and other technologies for which there is barely any international regulation worth the name. Polarisation, intolerance and the spread of conspiracy theories add a further layer, eroding the rule of law within domestic legal systems. Is the peaceful settlement of disputes still at the centre of international law, or are we moving into an order where confrontation, lawfare and the instrumental use of legal categories now set the terms? Can the rules and institutions we have still hold conflict, or are they being hollowed out?

Where international law is thought from is not a small matter. Málaga is a Mediterranean city facing North Africa, with centuries of overlapping cultures and legal traditions behind it. Here the friction between different legal orders has been ordinary life rather than a textbook problem. Its history is a useful reminder for a discipline that takes shape, after all, in the encounter with the other, conflict included. We hope the city itself will be a quiet but telling backdrop to our discussions.

Three days of plenary lectures, fora, agorae and several special programme elements lie ahead. We hope they will give the ESIL community room to take that tension on, in earnest.



WELCOME FROM THE ORGANIZERS

An event of this scale has only been possible thanks to the support of many institutions, sponsors and colleagues, whose names appear at the end of this brochure. We owe a particular debt to the ESIL Board and Secretariat, patient and unwavering allies throughout, and to the members of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, whose work over the past months is the reason this Conference exists at all.

We wish you a few stimulating days, some productive disagreement, and the kind of conversations that only happen when people sit down in the same room. Keep some hours for the city too: for the sea, for the old town, and for the slow afternoons of the Málaga that Vicente Aleixandre, Nobel laureate in Literature, called the "City of Paradise".

The Organizing Committee Universidad de Málaga

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



**Ana María Salinas
de Frías**



**Alejandro Sánchez
Frías**



**Ignacio Álvarez
Arcá**



**Eduardo Jiménez
Pineda**

WELCOME FROM THE ESIL PRESIDENT



Christian J. Tams

Dear all,

On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all participants in the 21st ESIL Annual Conference!

ESIL organizes many activities throughout the year, but the annual conference is the beating heart of our Society. After Vilnius (2024) and Berlin (2025), ESIL is moving southwest this year to Málaga for our second conference held in Spain. On behalf of the entire Society, I wish to convey my gratitude to the team of local organizers led by Professor Ana María Salinas de Frías, who have made an enormous effort to

welcome us in Málaga. I am also very grateful to our main sponsors for their generous contributions - namely Unicaja Bank, Unicaja Foundation and Famadesa - and to the Mayor of Málaga and the Rector of its University for their support.

Our conference this year addresses the relationship between 'International Law and Conflict'. This may seem a fitting theme for a Conference held in 2026, a year that has been marked by a resurgence of military conflict and renewed reflection about the role of international law in addressing it. But as is clear from the rich programme set out in this brochure, this year's Conference is not just about military conflicts. The Conference seeks to assess (as the subtitle has it) the potentially 'enduring tension' between international law and conflict - a concept that has been at the core of international law since its inception. And so 'conflict' is the prism through which we will reflect on international law, in wide-ranging discussions organized in 9 agorae and 6 fora, as well as 17 interest group sessions that cover climate change, resource extraction, the roles of international lawyers and much more. And as is traditional during ESIL Conferences, we will also make time to honour prize winners, welcome new members and hold our General Assembly - which this year will be an opportunity to elect up to 7 members of the Board.

A packed few days lie ahead, then much time to engage with international law. I hope you'll make the most of it – but also find time to chat in corridors, meet friends in bars and visit some of Málaga's sites, so that, adapting the words of Málaga's most famous son, Pablo Picasso, this 21st ESIL Annual Conference will help "wash the dust of daily life off our souls".

Christian J. Tams

MESSAGE DE BIENVENUE DU PRÉSIDENT DE LA SEDI



Christian J. Tams

Chères toutes et chers tous,

Au nom du Conseil d'administration, j'ai l'honneur de souhaiter chaleureusement la bienvenue à tous les participants à la 21e Conférence annuelle de la SEDI !

La SEDI organise de nombreuses activités tout au long de l'année, mais la Conférence annuelle est le cœur battant de notre Société. Après Vilnius (2024) et Berlin (2025), nous nous déplaçons vers le sud-ouest, à Málaga, pour notre deuxième conférence organisée en Espagne. Au nom de l'ensemble de la Société, je tiens à exprimer ma gratitude à l'équipe d'organiseurs locaux dirigée par la professeure

Ana Maria Salinas de Frias, qui a déployé des efforts énormes pour nous accueillir à Málaga. Je suis également très reconnaissant envers nos principaux sponsors pour leurs généreuses contributions – à savoir la banque Unicaja, la Fondation Unicaja et Famadesa – ainsi qu'envers le maire de Málaga et le recteur de l'université pour leur soutien.

Notre conférence de cette année aborde la relation entre « le droit international et le conflit ». Ce thème peut sembler tout à fait approprié pour une conférence organisée en 2026, une année marquée par une recrudescence des conflits militaires et par une réflexion renouvelée sur le rôle du droit international. Mais comme le montre clairement le riche programme présenté dans cette brochure, la conférence de cette année ne se limite pas aux conflits militaires. Elle vise à évaluer (comme l'indique le sous-titre) la « tension durable » entre le droit international et les conflits – un concept qui est au cœur du droit international depuis sa création. C'est donc à travers le prisme du « conflit » que nous mènerons notre réflexion sur le droit international, au cours de discussions de grande envergure organisées dans le cadre de 9 agorae et 6 fora, ainsi que de 17 sessions de groupes de réflexion, qui porteront notamment sur le changement climatique, l'extraction des ressources, les rôles des juristes internationaux et bien d'autres thèmes encore. Et comme le veut la tradition lors des conférences de la SEDI, nous prendrons également le temps d'honorer les lauréats, d'accueillir les nouveaux membres et de tenir notre Assemblée générale – qui sera cette année l'occasion d'élire jusqu'à 7 membres du Conseil d'administration.

Ce sont donc quelques journées bien remplies qui nous attendent, avec beaucoup de temps à consacrer au droit international. J'espère que vous en profiterez pleinement, mais aussi que vous trouverez le temps de discuter dans les couloirs, de retrouver des amis dans les bars et de visiter les sites de Málaga, afin que, pour reprendre les mots du fils le plus célèbre de Málaga, Pablo Picasso, cette 21e conférence annuelle de notre Société nous aide à « laver notre âme de la poussière du quotidien ».

Christian J. Tams

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 2 September 2026

15:00 – 18:00 IG Workshops

IG International Economic Law Aula 1

IG Critical Approaches to International Law Aula 2

IG International Legal Theory and Philosophy Aula 4

IG EU as a Global Actor Aula 5

IG Social Sciences and International Law Seminario 1

IG Energy and International Law Seminario 2

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Thursday 3 September 2026

09:00 – 12:00 IG Workshops

Special IG event: IG on the Law of the Sea
[A Roundtable Discussion of Recent ITLOS Cases](#) Aula 1

IG International Courts and Tribunals Aula 2

IG International Organizations Aula 3

IG International Criminal Justice Aula 4

IG International Law of Culture Aula 5

IG Migration and Refugee Law Aula 6

IG International Human Rights Law Aula 12

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Thursday 3 September 2026

09:00 – 12:00 IG Workshops

IG History of International Law

Seminario 1

IG International Business and Human Rights

Seminario 2

IG Feminism & International Law

Seminario 3

IG International Health Law

Seminario 4

IG Peace and Security

Seminario 5

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 3 September 2026

Afternoon programme

12:15 –
12:45

ESIL Board meets IG Convenors

Aula Lex
Flavia

Opening of the Conference – Words of Welcome

13:00 –
14:00

- **Professor Teodomiro López Navarrete**, Rector Magnífico of the University of Málaga
- **Francisco de la Torre**, Major of the City of Málaga
- **Professor José Manuel Domínguez**, President of Unicaja Bank Foundation
- **Professor Christian Tams**, President of the European Society of International Law
- **Professor Ana Salinas**, Professor of International Law, University of Málaga and ESIL Board Member

Aula Magna

14:00 –
14:30

Keynote lecture - International Human Rights Law; The Roadmap to Honour Human Dignity

- **Mr. Michael O'Flaherty**, Commissioner of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Aula Magna

14:30 –
16:00

FORUM 1: International Legal Professionals in Times of Geopolitical Conflicts

Chair: **Olga Butkevych**, President of the Ukrainian Association of International Law, University of Kyev

Speakers:

- **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**, University of Geneva
- **Andy Pusca**, President of Danubius International University
- **Gearóid Ó Cuinn**, director of Global Legal Action Network

Aula Magna

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 3 September 2026

Afternoon programme

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee & Tea Kindly sponsored by Foley Hoag	Main Hall
16:30 – 18:00	FORUM 2: Emerging Challenges in Contemporary Conflicts Chair: Thomas Cottier , University of Bern Speakers: • Vaios Koutroulis, Université Libre de Bruxelles • Marco Roscini, University of Westminster • Cristina Elena Popa Tache, Romanian Academy	Aula Magna
18:15- 19:30	Special event in Co-Operation with Early Career Researcher Network How to combine academia and practice, with Michael O’Flaherty and Freya Betens .	Aula Magna
19.30	Welcome Reception at the University of Málaga Botanical Garden Offered by the City Hall of Málaga	University of Málaga Botanical Garden

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 4 September 2026

9:00 – 10:30 Parallel sessions (Agorae 1 – 3)

AGORA 1: Political Narratives and Critiques about International Law and Institutions

Chair: **Aristoteles Constantidinis**, University of Cyprus

Speakers:

- **Kyra Wigard**, "International Courts as Arenas of Contestation: Judicial Engagement during Active Armed Conflicts", University of Copenhagen & Utrecht University
- **Juan F. Escudero Espinosa**, "State Resistance to International Law and the Erosion of International Peace and Security", University of León
- **Troy Lavers**, "Gendering the Peace, the problem with hyper masculinised peace initiatives", University of Leicester

Aula Judicial

AGORA 2: The impact of political polarization on human rights law and mechanisms

Chair: **Carmela Pérez Bernárdez**, University of Granada

Speakers:

- **Annika Knauer**, "Gendered Disinformation: When Misogyny becomes Violent", Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany
- **Jobair Alam**, "Civic Space as a Site of Conflict: Human Rights Defenders, Illiberalism, and the Enduring Tension within International Human Rights Law in Europe", University of Staffordshire
- **Sophie Capicchiano Young**, "Sanctuary and Sedition: The Criminalisation of Aid to Refugees and Migrants and the Defence of the Humanitarian Exemption", University of Galway

Aula de Grados

AGORA 3: Economic conflicts in a fractured global order

Chair: **Leïla Choukroune**, University of Portsmouth

Speakers:

- **Mengjing Kong**, "Regulating Sovereign Investors in the Critical Mineral Sector: A Transition from National Security to Sustainable Development", European University Institute
- **Klaus Günter Blank**, "The rules-based multilateral trading system - time for requiem or resurrection?", European Commission
- **Zelin Li**, "First Mover Principle in Institutional Competition between International Commercial Courts", University of Copenhagen

Aula 6

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 4 September 2026

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee & Tea** Main Hall
Kindly offered by Unicaja Banco

FORUM 3: Navigating normative tensions in international conflicts

Chair: **Petra Weingerl**, University of Maribor, Slovenia

11:00 – 12:30 Speakers: Aula 6
• **Alejandro Chehtman**, University Torcuato di Tella
• **Panos Delimatsis**, Tilburg University
• **Nazila Ghanea**, University of Oxford and UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

FORUM 4: International courts and tribunals in the quest for peace and justice in conflicts

Chair: **Jan Ortgies**, Independent Arbitrator

11:00 – 12:30 Speakers: Aula 14
• **Suzana Sanz Caballero**, CEU Cardenal Herrera, ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights
• **Ion Galea**, Judge at the General Court of the European Union
• **Serena Forlati**, University of Ferrara

13:15 – 13:45 **ESIL Board meets new Members** Aula 14

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break** Main Hall
Kindly offered by Unicaja Bank Foundation

12:45 – 13:45 **Side event** Aula 2
ESIL Task Force on Underrepresentation and Membership (open to the public).

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 4 September 2026

14:00 – 15:30: Parallel sessions (Agorae 4 – 6)

AGORA 4: Strategic materials and conflicts: strategic natural resources and geographical tensions

Chair: **Mariano Aznar Gómez**, University Jaume I Castellón

Speakers:

- **Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo**, "Profiting from Third-Party Strategic Resources: Morocco and the Exploitation of Marine Resources in Western Sahara", University of Cadiz
- **Rián Derrig**, "Strategic Legislation for BBNJ Agreement Implementation: A Political Economy of Treaty Interpretation", World Maritime University
- **Nivedita S**, "The Law and Political Economy of Critical Minerals: Strategic Resource Conflicts in a Fragmented Global Order", National University of Singapore

Aula
Judicial

AGORA 5: Reassessing International Humanitarian Law for new and ongoing armed conflicts

Chair: **Anne Quintin**, International Committee of the Red Cross

Speakers:

- **Saeed Bagheri**, "From operational success to legal pretext: prospective long-term military advantage in international humanitarian law", University of Reading
- **Salman Khan**, "Invisible perhaps, but not a legal vacuum: towards the systemic integration of international humanitarian law and climate change", University of Munich
- **Barbara Stepien**, "Invulnerable Combatant: Sea Drones and the Erosion of Human-Centric IHL at Sea", Jagiellonian University

Aula de
Grados

AGORA 6: International, hybrid and domestic courts and the accountability for heinous, serious and grave crimes in conflict zones

Chair: **Piotr Hofmanski**, former president International Criminal Court, Krakow Center for International Criminal Justice,

Speakers:

- **Carmen Moldovan**, "The Legal Design of The Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and the Risk of Fragmentation of International Accountability", Alexandru Ioan Cuza University
- **Raphael Oidtmann**, "Beyond Institutional Design: Evidence Governance as the New Frontier of Complementarity", University of Mannheim
- **Barbara Pauli**, "In The Hague and National Courtrooms: A Comparative Study of Victim-Centered Justice in CRSV Cases", Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Aula 6

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 4 September 2026

14:00 – 15:30 Publishers meeting

Aula Lex Flavia

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee & Tea**
Kindly offered by Famadesa

Main Hall

16:00 – 17:30 Parallel sessions (Agorae 7 – 9)

AGORA 7: Reimagining conflict in the digital era

Chair: **Kubo Mačák**, University of Exeter

Speakers:

- **Sze Hong Lam** and **Madeeha Majid**, "Emergent Genocide? 'Algorithmic Thoughtlessness' as the new frontier of impunity", National University of Singapore and Leiden University
- **Alesia Zhuk**, "Algorithmic Fact-Finding and Safeguarding Evidentiary Standards in International Criminal Law", Pompeu Fabra University
- **Jack Kenny**, "Contested Conceptions of Sovereignty in the Application of International Law to New Technologies", University of Manchester

Aula Judicial

AGORA 8: International Law and Domestic Legal Orders at the Time of Tensions

Chair: **Laurence Burgorgue-Larsen**, Université de Paris-Sorbonne

Speakers:

- **Inés Friekech Laraki**, "Non-Subject Domestic Orders: How African Unrecognized Entities Internalize International Human Rights Norms", Europa-Universität Viadrina
- **Frédéric Mégret**, "Jumping the Gun? The Problem of Normative Early Adoption as Seen Through International Human Rights and Criminal Law", McGill University
- **Tamar Megiddo** and **Ronit Levine-Schnur**, "Enmity Law at the Crossroads between Domestic and International Law". Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University

Aula de Grados

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 4 September 2026

16:00 – 17:30 Parallel sessions (Agorae 7 – 9)

AGORA 9: Treaties, Capital and Conflict in the History of International Law

Chair: **Monica Garcia-Salmones Rovira**, University of Maastricht

Speakers:

- **Helin Laufer**, "From Claims Commissions to Investment Arbitration: Conflict and Continuity in the Protection of Foreign Property", University of Cambridge
- **Frederick Cowell**, "'The War to End all Wars' and its legacy for the law of Treaty Withdrawal 1917-1945", Birkbeck College
- **Connor McBain**, "'Unknown Knowns', a redux: Venezuela, the 'Donroe' Doctrine, and the Subaltern Legacy of the Drago-Porter Convention in Jus ad Bellum", University of Ulster School of Law & Transitional Justice Institute

Aula 6

17:30 –
19:00

ESIL General Assembly

Aula Magna

20:00

Guided Tour at the Archeological Museum of Málaga

21:00

Conference Dinner at the Archeological Museum of Málaga

Address: Plaza de la Aduana, s/n

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Saturday 5 September 2026

9:00 – 10:30 Parallel sessions (Fora 5 & 6)

FORUM 5: The impact of conflicts vis-à-vis multilateralism and law-making processes

Chair: **René Provost**, McGill University

Speakers:

- **Atila Massimo Tanzi**, University of Bologna
- **Elena Abrusci**, Brunel University of London
- **Lucas A. Pérez Martín**, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Aula 6

FORUM 6: When climate change fuels conflicts

Chair: **Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh**, University of Amsterdam

Speakers:

- **Marta Torre-Schaub**, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne
- **Luis Eslava**, La Trobe University
- **Piotr Szwedo**, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Aula 14

10:30 – Coffee & Tea

11:00 Kindly offered by Unicaja Banco

Main Hall

11:00 – A Conversation with the ESIL Book Prize Winners

12:00

Aula Magna

12:00 – Concluding chat – Mr. Federico Torres Muro, Ambassador 13:00 Permanent Representative of Spain to NATO

Aula Magna

Closing of the Conference

13:00 –
13:30

Speakers:

- **Christian Tams**, President of the ESIL
- **Alejandro Sánchez Frías**, Associate Professor

Aula Magna

13:30 Farewell sandwiches

Main Hall

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TRANSPORT

AIRPORT

There are several transport options for travelling from Malaga Airport to the capital. The Cercanías C1 train service is a fast and economical alternative that connects the airport with Malaga Central Station in approximately 12 minutes. Intercity buses and taxi services are also another alternative for getting to the city centre. There is also the option of renting a car from the numerous car hire companies available at the airport.

Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport
Avenida del Comandante García Morato, S/N
29004 Málaga
Telephone +34 902 404 704
Email: infoagp@e-externas.aena.es
Website: www.aena.es

RAILWAY

Málaga's María Zambrano Station is one of the most important Southern Spain railway communication hubs. In fact, Málaga is connected to Spain's major cities through the Spanish High Speed (AVE) network. Its central location and excellent communications with other forms of transport makes Málaga Station an important departure and arrival point when planning a visit to the city.

Explanada de la Estación, s/n. 29002. Málaga
Timetable: 6:10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Telephone: +34 902 24 02 02
Telephone for the Disabled: +34 952 36 02 02
Left luggage office opening hours: 6 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.
Bus lines: 1, 3, 4, 10, 16, 20, 27, A, N1, Circular 1 y Circular 2
Distance from airport: 9 km
RENFE (National Railway Service) website: www.renfe.es

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TRANSPORT

ROAD

Access from the north is along the A-45 motorway (Antequera-Málaga), which links up with the A-92 motorway that crosses the Andalusian Region. The highways from the north of Spain join this motorway.

On the other hand, the A-7 motorway (Autovía del Mediterráneo), which runs along the whole of the province's coastline from Nerja to Algeciras, in the province of Cádiz, provides access to the city from any place along the coast.

BUS

Buses running from the city centre to the Faculty of Law: you can use any of the following lines: no. 8, no. 11.

UNDERGROUND

Traveling by the underground to the Faculty of Law is very easy, line no. 2 takes you right to the main entrance to the Faculty of Law.

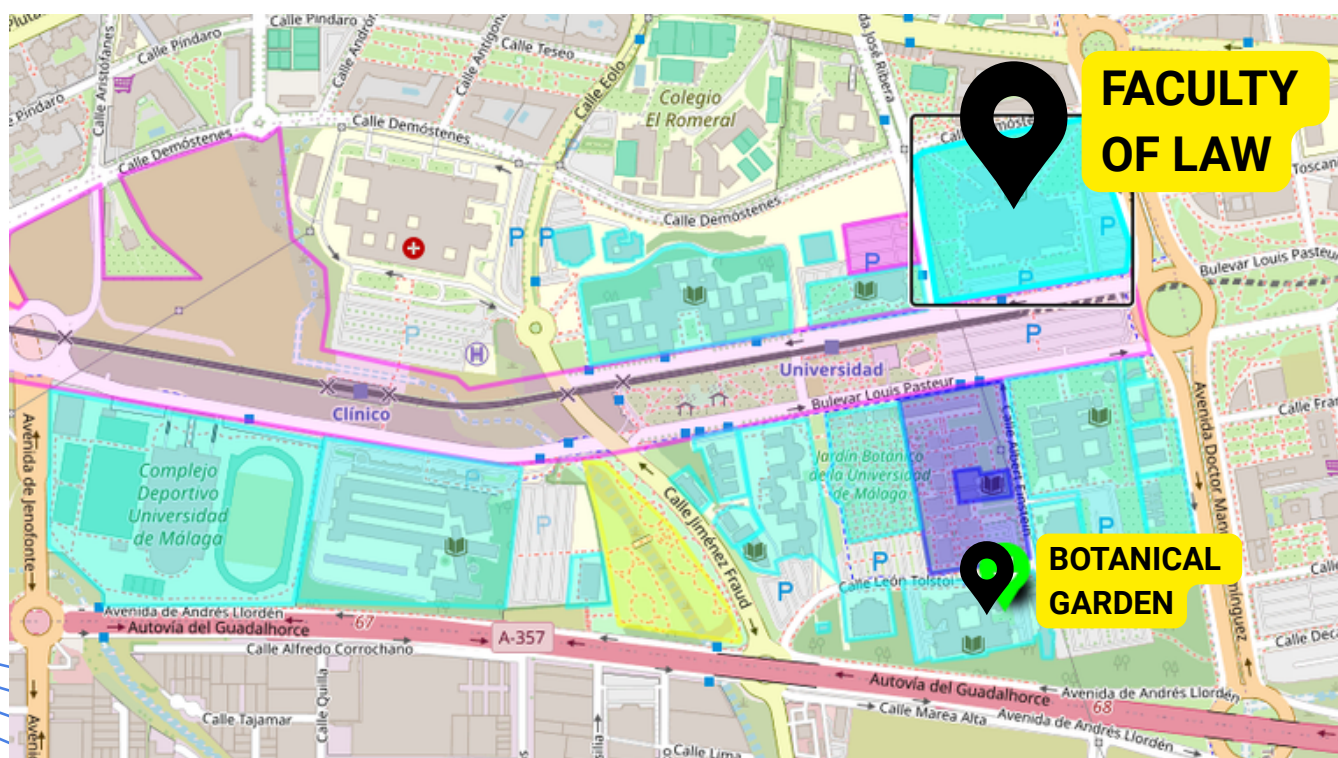
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FACULTY OF LAW

The venue for the AC will be the Faculty of Law. Joint activities will take place at the Aula Magna (ground floor, end of the main hall), Aula Judicial (ground floor, left patio) and Aula de Grados (first floor, Dean's Office).

All the meeting rooms for the IG sessions are located in the ground floor. Lex Flavia room is located in the first floor, to the left.

University of Málaga Botanical Gardens are located just opposite the Faculty of Law, crossing over the main campus avenue.



PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Following the conclusion of the Conference, publication opportunities may be available to speakers in the ESIL Series and/or the ESIL Proceedings.

ESIL SERIES

The European Society of International Law Series publishes high-quality volumes on various international law themes. To this end, the ESIL Board has broadened the scope of the ESIL Series beyond the themes of ESIL Annual Conferences and ESIL Joint Events.

Potential editors are welcome to get in touch with the General Editors with proposals for edited volumes to shape the future of ESIL scholarly publications.

Books in the Series will be subject to a double-blind review process by a high-level editorial board in cooperation with the Series editors and will be published by Oxford University Press.

Volumes in the ESIL Series

- **Volume 7:** *International Law and Universality*, edited by Işıl Aral and Jean d'Aspremont (2024)
- **Volume 6:** *Secondary Rules of Primary Importance in International Law*, edited by Gábor Kajtár, Başak Çali, and Marko Milanovic (2022)
- **Volume 5:** *The Protection of General Interests in Contemporary International Law: A Theoretical and Empirical Inquiry*, edited by Massimo Iovane, Fulvio M. Palombino, Daniele Amoroso, and Giovanni Zarra (2021)
- **Volume 4:** *Migration and the European Convention on Human Rights*, edited by Başak Çali, Ledi Bianku, and Iulia Motoc (2021)
- **Volume 3:** *How International Law Works in Times of Crisis*, edited by George Ulrich and Ineta Ziemele (2019)
- **Volume 2:** *The European Convention on Human Rights and General International Law*, edited by Anne van Aaken and Iulia Motoc (2018)
- **Volume 1:** *The Judicialization of International Law. A Mixed Blessing?*, edited by Andreas Follesdal and Geir Ulfstein (2018).

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

ESIL PROCEEDINGS

The ESIL Proceedings feature short papers presented at ESIL events, including Annual Conferences, Research Fora, or Interest Groups events. Publication in the series allows authors to disseminate their work quickly and widely, reaching broader audiences without the delays typically associated with traditional academic publishing. It also does not prevent authors from subsequently publishing their papers in academic journals or edited collections.

The ESIL Proceedings are included in the EUI CADMUS Repository at the European University Institute, while previous ESIL Papers are available on the ESIL Website, on SSRN, and in the EUI Cadmus Repository.

- Papers from the 2025 ESIL Research Forum in Catania are available in the EUI Cadmus Repository.
- Papers from the 2024 ESIL Annual Conference are available in the EUI Cadmus Repository.
- Papers from the 2024 ESIL IGs' Pre-Annual Conference Workshops are available in the EUI Cadmus Repository.
- Papers from the 2024 Research Forum in Nicosia are available in the EUI Cadmus Repository.
- Papers from 2021-2023 events are available in the EUI Cadmus Repository.
- Papers from 2011-2019 events are available on SSRN.
- Papers from 2004-2009 events are available on the ESIL website.

All conference speakers will be invited to submit their papers to the ESIL Proceedings after the conclusion of the Annual Conference. The deadline for submitting final papers is 1st November 2026.

For further information, please contact esil.papers@gmail.com.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

ESIL REFLECTIONS

The ESIL Reflections offer up-to-date reflections on current issues in international law. The Reflections cover a wide range of topics relating to current developments in international law and practice as well as theoretical reflections in a way that is relatively accessible to non-experts. The ESIL Reflections are short papers (3,000-4,000 words) that argue one particular point that may trigger further debate in the scientific community.

The ESIL Reflections are published on the ESIL website and distributed freely to ESIL members. ESIL Members interested in contributing a Reflection are encouraged to visit the ESIL website for details of how to submit a proposal.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The European Society of International Law (ESIL) is a dynamic network of researchers, scholars, and practitioners in the field of international law. The Society's goals are to encourage the study of international law, foster inquiry, discussion, and innovation in international law, and promote a greater understanding of the role of international law in the world today.

The Society has provided a forum for the exchange and promotion of new ideas ever since the inaugural meeting in 2004 in Florence. ESIL events and publications continue to illustrate the breadth and range of members' interests and activities.

There has been a major ESIL Conference in a different venue each year since the Society was set up: Geneva (2005), Paris (2006), Budapest (2007), Heidelberg (2008), Helsinki (2009), Cambridge (2010), Tallinn (2011), Valencia (2012), Amsterdam (2013), Vienna (2014), Oslo (2015), Riga (2016), Naples (2017), Manchester (2018), Athens (2019), Stockholm (2021), Utrecht (2022), Aix-en-Provence (2023), Vilnius (2024), and Berlin (2025). After Málaga (2026), the next ESIL Annual Conference will be held in Lisbon in 2027.

ESIL Events

As well as Annual Conferences, ESIL also holds an annual Research Forum, a scholarly event which promotes engagement with research in progress by early-career members of the Society.

To date, ESIL Research Fora have been held in Florence (2015), Istanbul (2016), Granada (2017), Jerusalem (2018), Göttingen (2019), Catania (2021), Glasgow (2022), Tartu (2023), Nicosia (2024), Catania (2025), and Kraków (2026). The next ESIL Research Forum is scheduled to take place in Maribor in 2027.

Furthermore, there is an increasing number of joint events where ESIL works together with other institutions to set up conferences, symposia, or workshops looking at specific aspects of international law.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

ESIL also supports many events throughout Europe, including the events and workshops of the [ESIL Interest Groups](#), as well as other international workshops and conferences organized by its members.

ESIL Interest Groups

The 22 ESIL Interest Groups are all active and provide excellent networking opportunities for the members of the groups. The groups' conveners work together with members to arrange events and publications.

Participation and Support

The ESIL Board has introduced several measures to further increase participation in the Society's activities and to support participation at ESIL events:

- members in lower-income countries are offered reduced membership fees;
- ESIL Travel Grants are available to members to facilitate attendance at a range of ESIL events;
- ESIL Carers' Grants are available to encourage and facilitate the attendance of members with parental or other caring responsibilities.

ESIL Publications

ESIL publications include:

- the [ESIL Series](#), comprising high-quality volumes on the themes of Annual Conferences and other joint events;
- the [ESIL Proceedings](#), featuring papers presented at ESIL events;
- the online [ESIL Reflections](#).

Diversity and Early-Career Support

In 2022, the [ESIL Diversity Advisory Body](#) was established to advise and consult with the Board on how to adopt best practices in relation to upholding the values of diversity, equality, and inclusion across its work.

The ESIL Board also announced the creation of the [ESIL Early-Career Network](#), a European and global network of early-career international lawyers.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Funding and Membership

The activities of the Society have been generously funded from the outset by the Academy of European Law at the European University Institute in Florence, where the ESIL Secretariat is based. This continuing support is a much-appreciated contribution to the future of the Society.

The Society deeply appreciates the continued support of all its members, including Lifetime, Institutional, and all other valued membership categories.

Equality, Academic Freedom, and Participation

As a learned Society committed to the principles of equality and academic freedom, ESIL welcomes the participation of individuals, organizations, and institutions with an interest in international law, without regard to nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ethnicity, or institutional affiliation.

The exercise of this freedom entails corresponding responsibilities. All participants in ESIL events must undertake to refrain from unlawful speech, including speech that is intended or likely to cause or promote fear, hatred, harassment, or violence.



The European Society of International Law gratefully acknowledges the continued support provided by the Academy of European Law of the European University Institute.

ESIL GOVERNANCE

ESIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ESIL GOVERNANCE

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- Giulio Bartolini (University of Roma Tre)
- Arnulf Becker Lorca (European University Institute)
- Edouard Fromageau (University of Aberdeen)
- Gleider Hernández (KU Leuven)
- Machiko Kanetake (Asser Institute, University of Amsterdam)
- Patryk I. Labuda (Central European University)
- Federica Paddeu (Queens' College, Cambridge)
- Armando Rocha (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)
- Ana Salinas (University of Málaga)
- Silvia Steininger (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law)

ESIL STAFF

(based at the Academy of European Law, European University Institute, Florence)

- Walter Ilardi, Project Coordinator
- Elisa Cau, Project Assistant

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

- 2023 – 2025: Gleider Hernández
- 2021 – 2023: Pierre d'Argent
- 2019 – 2021: Photini Pazartzis
- 2017 – 2019: Luis Miguel Hinojosa Martínez
- 2014 – 2017: Andre Nollkaemper
- 2012 – 2014: Laurence Boisson de Chazournes
- 2010 – 2012: Anne Peters
- 2006 – 2010: Hélène Ruiz Fabri
- 2004 – 2006: Bruno Simma

ESIL GOVERNANCE

2026 ESIL BOARD ELECTIONS

2026 is an election year for the ESIL Board. At the 2026 General Assembly, to be held during the Annual Conference in Málaga, Spain, on 4 September 2026, the Society will elect 7 (seven) Board members.

All current ESIL members may vote if they have paid their 2026 membership fee by 24 August 2026.

Voting for the new Board members will take place through an online platform, open from 1:00 PM Málaga time on 3 September until 6:30 PM Málaga time on 4 September. All eligible ESIL members will receive an email link enabling them to vote anonymously. ESIL will not be able to access personal voting data, and members may cast their vote from any location, whether in Málaga or elsewhere.

LIST OF CANDIDATES

The twelve candidates standing for election are listed below.

- Justo Corti Varela
- Federica Cristani
- Veronika Fikfak (for re-election)
- Edouard Fromageau (for re-election)
- Patrycja Grzebyk (for re-election)
- Andreas Kulick
- Gail Lythgoe
- Belen Olmos Giupponi
- Daniel Peat (for re-election)
- Cristina Elena Popa Tache
- Liliana Tymchenko
- Caleb Wheeler

Further details about the candidates are available at [ESIL Board Elections-2026](#)

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ESIL MEMBERSHIP

WHO CAN JOIN?

ESIL Membership is open to all those with an interest in international law who wish to contribute to the realisation of the goals of the Society.

There are no limitations on nationality or qualification. As a learned society, ESIL aims to promote excellent scholarship and research in international law from all members, irrespective of their background or identity.

The Society encourages the engagement and collaboration of individuals with diverse identities, experiences, and ideas.

The number of members continues to increase each year, and the members include junior and senior academics, students and researchers, professionals in law firms and international organizations, judges and other Court personnel.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- You are part of a community of international law professionals from all over the world.
- You can choose to receive an online subscription to EJIL (European Journal of International Law) at a reduced cost.
- You receive regular emails about all ESIL events - Annual Conferences, Research Fora, ESIL Joint and Supported Events, ESIL Interest Group events, and other ESIL Initiatives.
- You pay reduced registration fees at ESIL Annual Conferences and ESIL Research Fora.
- You can join any of the 22 ESIL Interest Groups and participate in their activities.
- You have exclusive access to the ESIL Teaching Corner.
- You benefit from numerous opportunities to network with other members and potentially to publish with the Society.
- You can submit up-to-date reflections on current issues in international law to be published in the series of ESIL Reflections.
- You receive quarterly ESIL Newsletters and monthly ESIL Updates by email.

ESIL MEMBERSHIP

- You can post announcements in the Members' News section of the ESIL website to share information with other members about conferences, workshops, seminars, summer schools, etc., and these announcements will be sent to all members in the monthly ESIL Updates.
- You can participate in the election of the ESIL Board and of Interest Group Coordinating Committees.
- After one year of membership, you are eligible to stand for election yourself.

There are four main membership categories: Regular, Student, 5-year, and Retired.

ESIL offers reduced fees to students, retired persons, and members based in low and middle-income countries. Since membership fees represent the Society's one and only source of income, the Society kindly asks all members who can afford it to pay the standard fee.

ESIL offers Lifetime and Institutional memberships as well. If you are interested in this type of membership, please contact the [ESIL Secretariat](#).

HOW TO JOIN / RENEW MEMBERSHIP

To join or renew your membership, click on [Join/Renew](#) to access our [online membership platform](#). Then, select your type of membership, click on "proceed to payment", log in to your account (or create an account if you are a new member), and follow the instructions. You can pay by credit card or bank transfer.

If you have any questions about your membership, please visit [this page](#) or contact the [ESIL Secretariat](#).

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If you have any questions about your membership, please visit [this page](#) or contact the [ESIL Secretariat](#).

ESIL LIFETIME MEMBERS (2026)

1. Anne van Aaken, Hamburg
2. Andreas von Arnould, Kiel
3. Freya Baetens, Oxford
4. Markus P. Beham, Passau / Vienna
5. Ledi Bianku, Strasbourg
6. Christina Binder, Vienna
7. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Geneva
8. Gian Luca Burci, Geneva
9. Enzo Cannizzaro, Rome
10. James Crawford, Cambridge
11. Pierre d'Argent, Brussels
12. Eric De Brabandere, Leiden
13. Donald Francis Donovan, New York
14. Carlos Espósito, Madrid
15. Mary E. Footer, Nottingham
16. Francesco Francioni, Florence
17. Larissa van den Herik, Leiden
18. Gleider Hernández, Leuven
19. Burkhard Hess, Luxembourg
20. Ellen Hey, Rotterdam
21. Dame Rosalyn Higgins, The Hague / London
22. Luis M. Hinojosa-Martínez, Granada
23. Kaj I. Hobér, Uppsala
24. Işıl Karakaş, Strasbourg / Istanbul
25. Helen Keller, Zurich
26. Pieter Jan Kuijper, Amsterdam
27. Makane Moïse Mbengue, Geneva
28. Frédéric Mégret, Montréal
29. Iulia A. Motoc, The Hague / Timisoara
30. Wolfgang Münch, Geneva
31. Gurmeet Nehra, New Delhi
32. André Nollkaemper, Amsterdam
33. Photini Pazartzis, Athens
34. Alain Pellet, Paris
35. Anne Peters, Heidelberg / Berlin / Basel
36. August Reinisch, Vienna
37. Ian Rennie, Yellowknife
38. Hélène Ruiz Fabri, Paris
39. Vasilka Sancin, Ljubljana
40. Philippe Sands K.C., London
41. Marco Sassòli, Geneva
42. Stephan W. Schill, Amsterdam
43. Mortimer Sellers, Baltimore
44. Bruno Simma, The Hague
45. Christian J. Tams, Cologne
46. Attila Massimiliano Tanzi, Bologna
47. Ruth Wedgwood, Washington, D.C.
48. Joseph H.H. Weiler, New York
49. Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, Amsterdam
50. Michael Wood, London
51. Sienho Yee, Beijing
52. Ganna Yudkivska, Kyiv / Strasbourg

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ESIL Prizes

ESIL MONOGRAPH PRIZE

The 2026 European Society of International Law Monograph Prize jury has unanimously decided to award this year's prize to Nikolaos Voulgaris for his work The ICJ and Multi-forum Litigation Strategy, published by Brill | Nijhoff.

The Jury members for the 2026 ESIL Monograph Prize are Maurizio Arcari (University of Milan-Bicocca), Cecily Rose (University of Leiden), and María Isabel Torres Cazorla (University of Málaga).

The jury evaluated a wide range of monographs published in 2025 on any topic relating to international law submitted for consideration by leading international law publishers.



Nikolaos Voulgaris is a professor of international law at the European Law & Governance School and a fellow at the Centre of International Law and Dispute Resolution at King's College London (KCL). Specialised in general public international law, his interests include the law of international responsibility, the sources and subjects of international law and international dispute settlement. His latest research explores the limits of international courts as dispute resolution mechanisms. He studied law in Athens (LLB & LLM, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) and London (LLM & PhD, KCL).

He has taught both postgraduate and undergraduate courses at KCL and Athens. He has practiced law in Athens. He is the author of The ICJ and Multi-forum Litigation Strategy (Brill, 2025) & Allocating International Responsibility between International Organizations and Member States (Hart, 2019).

ESIL COLLABORATIVE BOOK PRIZE

The 2026 European Society of International Law Collaborative Book Prize jury has unanimously decided to award this year's prize to Ed Bates, Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou and Andrew Forde for their work, Russia, the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights, published by Bristol University Press.

The Jury members for the 2026 ESIL Collaborative Book Prize are Astrid Kjeldgaard-Pedersen (University of Copenhagen), Andreas L. Paulus (University of Göttingen), and Riccardo Pavoni (University of Siena).

The jury evaluated a wide range of books published in 2025 on any topic relating to international law, co-authored by two or more authors or edited collections, submitted for consideration by leading international law publishers.

ESIL Prizes



Ed Bates is an Associate Professor at Leicester Law School (University of Leicester), and co-convenor of the Human Rights Cluster within the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI). He is an expert on human rights law with a particular focus on the law of the European Convention Human Right (ECHR). He is the author of, 'The Evolution of the European Convention on Human Rights 1948-1998', (Oxford University Press, 2010). Since 2009, he has co-authored the leading

textbook on the latter through four successive editions ('Harris O'Boyle and Warbrick: Law of the European Convention on Human Rights' Oxford University Press, 2009, 2013, 2019 and 2023). He is working on a monograph entitled 'The European Convention on Human Rights' Twenty First Century Evolution: Transformations, Reality Checks - Renewal?' contracted to Oxford University Press.



Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou is Professor in Human Rights Law and Associate Dean for Internationalisation of the School of Law and Social Justice. He joined the University of Liverpool in 2015, having previously worked at the University of Surrey (UK), University College Dublin (Ireland) and Gomel State University (Belarus).

Kanstantsin is an author of three books and over a hundred academic articles, review pieces and comments. He published in leading peer-reviewed journals such as Legal Studies, Human Rights Law Review, International

and Comparative Law Review and many others. He cooperates with international, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations as an expert in international and European human rights law. His research interests spread between interpretation of the European Convention of Human Rights, reform of the European Court of Human Rights, administration of international justice, comparative and constitutional law.

Kanstantsin is a co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the European Convention on Human Rights Law Review and director of the International Law and Human Rights Unit.



Andrew Forde is Assistant Professor of European Human Rights Law at Dublin City University (DCU) and Commissioner on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). He is Chairperson of the Irish Refugee Council and member of the Royal Irish Academy's Standing Committee for International Affairs. Andrew worked for the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for more than a decade focussed on human rights in conflict-affected regions.

ESIL Book Prizes

He led CoE operations in Kosovo for 5 years as well as confidence-building measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He spent six years as a Principal Officer in the Irish civil service. His first book *European Human Rights Grey Zones - The Council of Europe and Areas of Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 2024) was awarded the Kevin Boyle Book Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship in 2025 and his co-authored book *Russia, the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights - A Troubled Membership and Its Legacy* (Bristol University Press) was published in 2025. He co-founded the AGORA Group, an independent, pan-European platform committed to open dialogue and balanced, evidence-based debate on key issues concerning the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The awards will be celebrated during the 2026 ESIL Annual Conference, and the event **“A Conversation with the 2026 ESIL Book Prize Winners”** is scheduled for **Saturday, 5 September**.

ESIL EARLY-CAREER SCHOLAR PRIZE

In line with ESIL's goals of encouraging high-level scholarship, developing a greater awareness and understanding of international law, and promoting younger researchers, the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize (previously, Young Scholar Prize) is awarded at each ESIL Annual Conference for an outstanding paper submitted and presented by an early-career scholar during the conference or one of the pre-conference events.

The Jury members for the 2026 prize are Giulio Bartolini (University of Roma Tre), Armando Rocha (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), and Silvia Steininger (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law).

The jury has unanimously decided that the 2026 Early-Career Scholar Prize goes to Sjors Polm for the paper “Making the Peoples’ Law”, to be delivered on Wednesday, 2 September 2026 at the pre-conference workshop “Conflict and International Law: Beyond the Promise of Peace”, organized by the ESIL Interest Group on Critical Approaches to International Law.



Sjors Polm is a PhD Researcher at the European University Institute. Before coming to the EUI, Sjors studied law (LLB, LLM), philosophy (BA, MA), and social sciences (BSc) at the University of Amsterdam. He was a visiting student at NYU Law and a visiting researcher at LSE.

His dissertation, 'Doing Politics by Pretending to Do Law', is a history of a group of activists, intellectuals, and lawyers who initiated a practice of declaring laws and conducting trials outside of the realm of formal international law.

ESIL Prizes

The history spans from the Russell Tribunal on Vietnam of 1967 to the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, which remains operative to this day. It asks how the protagonists of these initiatives sought to use law for their political projects, and how law in turn morphed their political analyses and ideals. The thesis develops a threefold argument. First, it recovers a range of non-reformist ways in which activists have sought to use international law. Second, it shows how law's power to co-opt affects even those who try to do international law on their own terms. Finally, it recovers a lost vision for a different, anti-imperialist, international law.

The Early-Career Scholar Prize

Consists of two years' free membership of the Society and a contribution towards the costs of travel and accommodation for attending the ESIL Annual Conference. In addition, subject to review, the prize-winning paper might be published in the European Journal of International Law (EJIL). The award will be celebrated during the 2026 ESIL Annual Conference.

ESIL strongly encourages early-career scholars to submit abstracts for future ESIL Annual Conferences and ESIL Interest Groups pre-conference events and to indicate their interest in competing for the Prize.



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