

2019 ESIL Research Forum, Göttingen
Interest Group on International Organisations
3rd April 2019

Call for Papers

An Ambivalent Engagement: International Organisations and the Rule of Law

On the occasion of the 2019 ESIL Research Forum at the Institute for International Law and European Law, Göttingen, the Interest Group on International Organisations (IG-IO) is organizing a short workshop on the theme of international organisations and the rule of law. The workshop will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd April 2019.

For some time it has been an article of faith within the international legal academy that the realisation of an international rule of law requires the creation of international institutions capable of securing the fair and impartial administration of international justice against the recalcitrance of independent sovereign states. Indeed, from one perspective at least, it is very easy to see the decentralized institutional character of the international legal order as the central obstacle to the realization of the rule of law in international affairs. With the ‘move to institutions’ from the start of the twentieth century, then, it has been equally easy to conceive of many new international organisations – from the League and the United Nations to the World Bank and the ICC – as an effort to restructure international relations more in accordance with the precepts of an international rule of law.

As mid-twentieth century reformist enthusiasm has given way to post-Cold War cynicism and scepticism, however, it seems that the growing number and normative influence of international organisations increasingly threatens values most associated with the rule of law. Indeed, given concerns over the fragmentation and deformalisation of international law, both associated with the move towards what we now call ‘global governance’, international lawyers increasingly propose rule of law-inspired proposals for institutional containment and restraint.

Given this somewhat ambivalent connection between global institutions and the rule of law, the IG-IO invites submissions that seek to engage with the many relationships between international organisations and the rule of law. This may include, but is not limited to: papers engaging with how particular institutions promote or help to realise the rule of law, globally or nationally; papers engaging with or advocating rule of law-inspired reforms; and, indeed, more general and theoretical works that seek to explain or situate the above-noted tension.

Abstracts (of not more than 750 words) should be submitted to int.orgs.interestgroup@gmail.com by **Friday 23 November 2018**. Please include the following information with your abstract: your name, affiliation, email address, whether you are an ESIL member, plus a one-page curriculum vitae. Successful applicants will be notified by email by Friday 14 December 2018.

Complete paper drafts will be required by Friday 1 March 2019. Papers may in due course be published in the ESIL SSRN Conference Paper Series and may be selected for publication elsewhere. Further options will be discussed during the interest group workshop.

Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some ESIL travel grants will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding. Further information on financial support will be distributed to speakers in due course.

For further information on the Research Forum please visit ESIL's website.

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