

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (ESIL)
RESEARCH FORUM ON:

**THE INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW AND
DOMESTIC DIMENSIONS: SYNERGIES AND
CHALLENGES**

4-5 April 2019

**CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR THE INTEREST GROUP EVENT ON
*SOUND SCIENCE-BASED
REGULATION IN THE POST-
TRUTH ERA: DOMESTIC AND IN-
TERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW
UNDER FIRE***

3 April 2019

*ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law
&*

ESIL Interest Group on International Bio Law

***University of Göttingen, Institute for International
and European Law, Göttingen, Germany***



CALL FOR PAPERS

Against the background of a dynamic **technological development** with new emerging issues such as **big data**, **blockchain technology**, **artificial intelligence** and **cybersecurity** various disciplines of public international law such as international **environmental law**, international **health law** and international **bio-law** are becoming increasingly based on **scientific data** to face these new **challenges**. Regulating climate change, human health, human genome, circular economy, pandemics, nano-science, sustainable development, food safety and security would not be possible without **objective** and **scientifically sound information**. At the same time, achieving **harmonized international rules** is only possible against the backdrop of common understanding on the scientific realities. Such common positions have been greatly aided by the work of UN agencies and related committees. In these science-based areas, **scientific arguments** and proceedings are not only a way to achieve **political agreements** in practice (norms and standards) but also significantly affect **interpretation** and **application** of international law.

International law creates an "**infrastructure**" to global risk **governance** where regulators, stakeholders and citizens interact. It does not matter whether we are talking about legal regulation (domestic or international), law-backed self-regulation or self-regulation. In all cases, the **rule of law** departs from the premise that widely accepted scientific data is a solid foundation on which construct principles and rules.

However, in recent times, sound science data has been put in **doubt**. This is partly caused by the diversity of sources and ideology of scientific information. Since the **role of science in policy-making** is **under fire** domestically and internationally and scientific data are **relativized** in the post-truth era, very foundations of rule of law are undermined.



AREAS OF INTEREST

The **IG event** will address legal aspects of the intersections between **sound science** and **rule of law** in both international and domestic contexts such as:

- **Climate change relativism** in international and domestic law and its impact on the implementation of **Paris Agreements**.

- **Pandemics** declaration and implementation of coordinated measures.

- Effective **communication** of sound scientific decisions. Social networks and new technological channels. Neutralization of fake news. Legal instruments and practice of international organizations.

- Evaluation of **scientific evidence** by international **courts** and **tribunals**. Impact of post-truth in the production, assessment and impact of sound science evidence on the decisions.

- **Politicization** of scientific committees and international scientific organizations. Limits of neutrality and impartiality in the selection of experts. Conflict of interests. Is there an "ideological" scientific background that it is worth to be evaluated?

- **Scientific research** and **ideology**: Scientific funding and the impact on the selection of research objectives. Impact on the production of data and expert



profiles.

- **Ethics** and **religion** in a post-truth context: Impact of ethics and religion on the evaluation of scientific data. Is it possible to balance or neutralize scientific data with moral and/or religious believing?

- **Rule of law** in the **post-truth era**: Influence from domestic to international and vice-versa (in environmental, health and bio-law contexts).

- Principles and proceedings of the rule of law and the **scientific methods**. Similarities and differences.

- **Human Rights** protection and the rule of law in the context of sound science decline. Positive/negative impact on different rights.

- Historical development of sound science arguments as part of the international/domestic **rule of law guarantees**. Our standard? Whose standard? Exportation and acceptance in **non-western countries**.

- Is sound-science **gender** neutral? Post-truth and **feminism**. Rule of law and gender **discrimination** (in environmental, health and bio-law contexts)

- Future international legal framework for **space resources activities**: Interactions between international space law and science.



ELIGIBILITY

All **Members of the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law** and of the **ESIL Interest Group on Bio Law**, the members of other **ESIL IGs** and also the **non-ESIL members** (ESIL membership will be required if the abstract is selected) are **invited** to submit abstracts.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Paolo Davide Farah (West Virginia University, USA & gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK) - Convener ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law

Justo Corti Varela (UNED International Public Law Department, Madrid, Spain) Convener ESIL Interest Group on International Bio Law

OTHERS ESIL IG CONVENERS:

Daria S. Boklan, Chamu Kuppuswamy, José Manuel Sánchez Patrón, Martin Švec, Maria Isabel Torres Cazorla, Josephine van Zeben.

APPLICATIONS

The following must be submitted to paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk and jcorti@der.uned.es by December, 30th 2018:

- The author's **name** and **affiliation**;
- A 500-700-word **abstract** [Word file and PDF];
- The author's **CV**, including a list of relevant publications;
- The author's **contact details**, including email address and phone number;
- Whether the author is an **ESIL member**

Multiple abstracts from the same authors will be considered, but only one can be selected. Co-authored **multidisciplinary** papers are also welcomed.



IG ON INTERNATIONAL BIO LAW



IG ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

The organizers have **publication plans** for the presented papers. The precise format of publication will be discussed during the IGs event. There is already an established agreement to publish the results of this IGs event as an edited book (Justo Corti Varela & Paolo D. Farah eds.) in the **Routledge Publishing** (New-York/London) multidisciplinary [gLAWcal book series](#) on "[Transnational Law and Governance](#)"



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