

The Founding of Solidarity in the International Community

The ESIL Interest Group History of International Law will host a pre-conference workshop for graduate and Ph.D. students as well as early career scholars at the Research Forum in Catania, destined at uniting papers from various legal traditions and cultures, across all ages. We also invite contributions from disciplines other than law.

We are especially interested in papers investigating:

- **The intellectual genesis of the community of states.** Across cultures and legal systems, international law has evolved as an argumentative arena, from which a variety of actors and groupings derived the legitimacy of their political, economic, and ideological claims. The coherence of competing claims could be tested according to a common set of values. The extent of the international community and of vertical normativity could vary, according to the moral scope of these commonly accepted principles. This might include looking at the evolving schools of medieval *ius commune*, neo-scholasticism, humanism, and the school of natural law.
- **The interplay between religion, philosophy and the foundational utopias of international law.** Classical European examples might be the moral unity of medieval Christian theology, which introduced a thick set of principles, enforceable through the operation of the “just war”-doctrine, and its subsequent disintegration in the confessional strife of the early modern age.
- **The political use and instrumentalisation of international law by political actors.** An analysis of the dialectical relationship between reform and the so-called “positivist” 19th century international law-scholarship is instrumental in mapping the foundations of European conceptions of international law, between political autonomy and more welfarist objectives. As a basis, the Enlightenment utopias of the American and French Revolution, which questioned the ‘Westphalian’ international order of sovereigns, and the subsequent 19th century peace activism constitute other *loci* of international thought in these developments.
- **The appropriation and acculturation process of European international legal principles in the age of Western imperialism.** It is revealing for the attractive force exerted by the principles of freedom and equality. The hypocrisy of the “standard of civilisation”-doctrine precluded the sovereign utopia of 19th century European international law’s extension to non-Western cultures. Yet, on the other hand, its full realisation was a desired objective for many “peripheral” political entities.

Abstract of not more than 500 words should be submitted together with a short CV to -esilighil@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is **15 January 2020**. Successful applicants will be informed by 8 February 2020.

All those who take part in the ESIL Research Forum, at an Interest Group event and/or in the main Forum, are expected to be ESIL members at the time of their participation. 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. Please see the ESIL website (www.esil-sedi.eu) for information about travel grants offered to ESIL members and other relevant information about the Research Forum.