International organizations have existed since the nineteenth century but their essential legal features are still disputed. It is striking that issues such as the acquisition and incidents of international legal personality and the validity of ultra vires acts are as controversial today as they were when the League of Nations was created. Against this backdrop, the purpose of the seminar is to revisit the contested fundamentals of the law of international organizations and to situate them in the context of current issues faced by the international community. The first panel focuses on the concept of an international organization in international law, tackling issues such as autonomy from member states, transparency of the institutional veil, and the appropriateness of the analogy with states. The second panel focuses on issues of accountability, discussing alternative routes to international responsibility, immunities before domestic courts, and the settlement of disputes by arbitral tribunals.

2:00PM WELCOME
ROGER O’KEEFE Bocconi University

2:15PM PANEL 1 – THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
Panelists
CATHERINE BRÖLMANN University of Amsterdam
FERNANDO LUSA BORDIN University of Cambridge
RICHARD COLLINS University College Dublin
Comment
IRINI PAPANICOLOPULU Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca

3:45PM BREAK

4:15PM PANEL 2 – THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Panelists
GIOVANNA ADINOLFI Università degli Studi di Milano
MARTINA BUSCEMI Università degli Studi di Milano
RUTSEL MARTHA Lindeborg Counsellors at Law
Comment
MIRIAM ALLENA Bocconi University

5:45PM KEYNOTE SPEECH
JAN KLABBERS University of Helsinki

6:45PM CLOSING REMARKS
LORENZO GASBARRI Bocconi University

In collaboration with