



Call for Participants: The Promises and Perils of the Social Sciences in International Legal Scholarship

ESIL Interest Group on the Social Sciences and International Law
8 September 2021, Stockholm, 1500-1800

The ESIL interest group (IG) on social sciences & international law is a forum in which members that draw methodologies, concepts, theories, or experimental evidence from the social sciences can present their research, gain feedback from like-minded scholars, and broaden their knowledge of neighbouring disciplines.

The IG has two objectives: (1) to further our understanding of how, when, and whether to integrate insights from social sciences in the analysis of international law, and; (2) to stimulate debate regarding the benefits and limitations – from both a positive and normative perspective – to social sciences approaches to international law.

At its first meeting in Stockholm, the IG will discuss the promises and perils of the social sciences in international legal scholarship. At the meeting, we will discuss issues such as:

1. What are the important theoretical or epistemological differences between international law scholarship and other social sciences?
2. How should international legal scholars engage with the social science scholarship given (amongst others) the complexity of social sciences approaches, the level of expertise required, and the translation challenges between fields?
3. What are the limitations on transposing methodologies and behavioural insights elaborated in the context of the social sciences to international law scholarship and how can these be overcome?

This meeting of the IG will not be held in a ‘conventional’ conference-style format. Instead, we will discuss these issues in an informal setting that will allow us to become acquainted with each other, our research, and our disciplinary outlooks.

We are looking for IG members that are willing to present short two-page ‘think pieces’ that will structure the discussion and debate at the meeting. Those that are interested in doing so are invited to send an email to the IG convenors, Veronika Fikfak (veronika.fikfak@jur.ku.dk), Daniel Peat (d.c.peat@law.leidenuniv.nl), and Eva van der Zee (eva.vanderzee@ile-hamburg.de), explaining the ideas that they would like to present in a maximum of 300 words. Emails should be received by 30 May 2021 at 1200 CET.