ESIL IG on International Human Rights Law Annual Report 2019

1. ) Until fall 2019, Valentina Azarova, Emma Irving, and Pierre Thielbörger served as co-conveners of the IG on International Human Rights Law.

2.) In the framework of ESIL’s Annual Conference 2019 in Athens, the IG held a pre-conference IG event consisting of two panels on 11 September 2019. IG members had been invited via a call for papers to submit abstracts of which the three conveners chose six pieces for the event. The over-arching theme of the event was: “International Human Rights Law Beyond Traditional Sovereign Spaces”. The panels were as followed:

Panel 1: New Jurisdictional Spaces

a) The Human Rights Jurisdiction of Non State Actors: The Holy See (William Thomas Worster, The Hague University of Applied Sciences)

b) Implications of the IACtHR Advisory Opinion for Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making (Patrick Toussaint (PhD Candidate, University of Eastern Finland), Azucena Morán (Research Associate, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam), and Adrián Martínez Blanco (Fellow, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam))

c) Human Rights in Transboundary Contexts: Is an ‘Effects Jurisdiction’ Doctrine Emerging in International Human Rights Law? (Alice Ollino, PostDoctoral Research Fellow, University of Milano- Bicocca. (Ms Ollino’s paper received during the ESIL Annual conference the ESIL Young Scholar Prize.)

Panel 2: New Jurisdictional Spaces in Cyberspace

a) The Impact of Internet Intermediaries on Human Rights Online (Ana Gascón Marchen, Lecturer of Public International Law, University of Zaragoza)

b) Multinational Corporations and the Rule of Law in Cyberspace (Stephan Koloßa, Research Associate, Ruhr University Bochum)

c) How Far Can the Internet Forget? A Balancing Test of Conflicting Human Rights in Cyberspace (Giorgia Bevilacqua, Researcher at Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)

Both panels were moderated by Pierre Thielbörger.

3.) IG elections were held in October 2019 with Abdullah Faizee, Alejandro Fuentes and Pierre Thielbörger being elected as new conveners.

4.) The IG, together with the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum, held a high-level conference on Regional Human Rights Systems from a Comparative Perspective, taking place in **Florence**at the European University Institute on**12-13 December 2019.** The conference was supported by the European Society of International Law (ESIL) and the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanity (AGYA).

The conference brought together international human rights experts – both academics and practitioners – in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of regional human rights systems, the challenges they are currently facing, and the best ways forward. The European, Inter-American, African and Arab human rights mechanisms will be each considered and discussed in five thematic panels. The panels concerned different issues in focus, including the universality of human rights and the heterogeneity of political systems; new rights and new concepts in regional human rights jurisprudence; the threat that populism poses to these systems; the protection of vulnerable groups (including forced migrants and LGBT-people); as well as the role that businesses and financial institutions play in regional human rights systems. Speakers included Christian Tomuschat, Martin Scheinin, Mervat Rishmavi, Neha Jain, Andreas von Arnauld, Pierre Thielbörger, Alice Ollino, Urska Sadl, Mark Dawson, Tim Eicke, Sabrina Ragone, Ulrich Petersmann, Frans Viljoen, Lys Kulamadayil, Hans-Joachim Heintze, Tamirace Fakhoury, Joanne Scott, Michael Riegner, Eleni Frantziou, David Kinley and Margot Salamon. The conference was organized and moderated by Pierre Thielbörger. More information can be found here: [FLYER](https://esil-sedi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FLYER-ESILConferenceThielboergerRegionalHumanRightsEUI.pdf) and [PROGRAMME](https://esil-sedi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/V.-2-Draft-Programme-PT-October-aktuell-alle-logos-with-titles-updated_PT.pdf).