

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEREST GROUP ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW  
2021/2022

**Past activities**

1. *Webinar: 'Sustainable Development and the Law. Potential and Challenges of Using Behavioural Insights', Hamburg, Institute for Law and Economics, 23-24 September 2021.*

This conference brought together researchers from different disciplines including law, psychology, political science, and economics to explore the potential of using behavioural insights in law- and policy-making to promote sustainable development, as well as how to overcome the challenges associated with it.

The webinar was a great success with active participation from all over the world, wonderful keynotes by Anne van Aaken and Arden Rowell, and great contributions by Michael Faure, Shen Yayun, Josephine van Zeben, Jean Galbraith, Mary MacLennan, Claire Hobden, Adam Chilton, Julia von Thienen, Lars Walsleben, Katharina Luckner, Fabrizio Esposito, Samuel Becher, Jan Trzaskowski, Kai Purnhagen, Hendrik Bruns, Eva van der Zee, and Leona Henry.

2. *ESIL Annual Conference Workshop – 1 September 2022, Utrecht*

At its second meeting in at the Annual Conference, the IG discussed the 'Connecting social practices to legal outcomes'. At the meeting, we discussed issues such as:

1. *Who should we study?* Units of analysis, social groups, and centres of practice. In this theme, participants discussed the topics of 'Moral psychology and the legal self', 'Individual agents and collective structures', and 'New actors, institutionalized knowledge and ignorance'.
2. *What should we study?* Tools, methods, and objects of inquiry. In this theme, participants discussed 'Deconstructing 'method': New spaces of engagement', 'Precedent' and 'Computational Analysis'.

Following the success of the format of the previous session at the Annual Meeting in Stockholm, this meeting of the IG was not held in a 'conventional' conference-style format. Instead, we discussed these issues in an informal setting that allowed us to become acquainted with each other, our research, and our disciplinary outlooks. The session was well-attended, with approximately 30-40 participants throughout the day. Presenters and discussants were: Shubhangi Roy, Daniel Bertram, Jacob Livingstone Slosser, Klaudia Klonowska and Sadjad Soltanzadeh, Amin Labbafi, Olivier Barsalou, Martin Lolle Christensen, Renske Vos and Sofia Stolk, Harlan Cohen, Wojciech Giemza, Yilin Wang, and Jean-Michel Marcoux and Elizabeth Whitsitt. Tommaso Soave organised the event, along with Veronika Fikfak and Daniel Peat.

**Future Activities**

The IG has two events planned. The first is a series of workshops organised by Ezgi Yildiz, Umut Yüksel, and Chanya Punyakumpol (all of the Graduate Institute, Geneva) on 'Social Science Methods for Legal Scholars'. This series of workshops will be taught by experts in each method, and the sessions will be held on-line, free-of-charge, between mid-October and the beginning of December.

The second event is a conference on 'Aesthetics of International Law' conference, to be held at the Central European University on 12 and 13 of May 2023. This event is organised by Tommaso Soave of the CEU and the Call of Papers was circulated in early September 2022.

**Membership**

The current list of members is held by the ESIL Secretariat, and it counts 217 persons (as of September 2022).

We welcome proposals from our Members for the organization of conferences, seminar, research fora and other similar events concerning social sciences and international law.

**Governance**

The IG was governed by three co-chairs, Veronika Fikfak (University of Copenhagen, iCourts), Daniel Peat (Leiden Law School), and Eva van der Zee (Hamburg University, Institute of Law and Economics). Over the course of the year, they ran the IG, administer its webpage and organize regular events. The co-chairs meet regularly on Zoom.

Veronika Fikfak and Daniel Peat stepped down from their coordinating roles after this election to the ESIL Board at the Utrecht Annual Meeting. As Eva van der Zee's initial two-year term was drawing to a close, an election will be held for 4 convenors in late 2022.