



International Bio Law Interest Group

ESIL INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL BIO LAW

**Report on the activities of the ESIL Interest Group on International Bio
Law
(October 2020 - September 2021)**

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1. Introduction

The ESIL IG on International Bio Law was founded in 2012, under the initiative of one of the most active members of the group (Prof. Daniel García San José, from the University of Seville, Spain). The first meeting of the IG was developed in Valencia (September 2012), the city where the General Conference took place in that occasion. After that first meeting, a “customary rule” of the IG is to have a meeting per year –one together with the General Conference every two years, and another one in one city designed by the MC Committee of the Group. Following this practice, several meetings have taken place since 2012 (in Valencia, Seville, Vienna, Valencia, Riga, Málaga, Manchester, Göttingen, Athens and a webinar WET).

Since its creation, the IG has developed the aforementioned meetings and, after the event, the results have been published, by monographs or academic journals containing the contributions of the participants. Some examples of these publications are the following: *Bioderecho Internacional y Universalización: El papel de las Organizaciones y los Tribunales Internacionales/ International Biolaw and Universality: the Role of International Organizations and International Courts*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2020; *Bioderecho Internacional: Derechos Humanos, Salud Pública y Medioambiente/International Biolaw: Human Rights, Public Security and Environment*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2018; *Bioderecho, Seguridad y Medioambiente/Biolaw, Security and Environment*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2015; *Bioderecho internacional y europeo. Desafíos actuales*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, 2014.

2. Activities of the IG on International Bio Law during this period

- 1) In the 16th ESIL Meeting (Stockholm 2021) the IG facilitated Agora 11 under the title “The Making of International Biomedical Law”, moderated by Carlos Esposito (University Autonoma of Madrid), and papers were presented by Chamu Kuppuswamy (Hertfordshire Law School) and Jessica Almqvist (Lund University), Ludovica Poli (University of Turin), and Rumiana Yotova (University of Cambridge). The papers were titled, *International Organisations as 'Makers or Breakers' of Biomedical Law*, *Conflicting or Converging Role of Scientific Knowledge and Human Rights in the Development of International Biolaw*, and *Making International Biolaw in the Face of Scientific Uncertainty*, respectively. The agora took a deep and wide look at the development of

international biomedical law, including historical, theoretical approaches to the development of international biolaw. New issues such as the regulation of germ-line gene editing and recurrent issues such as the ownership of biomaterial were analysed by the presenters, particular focus was given to role of international organisations such as UNESCO, and the role of human rights law in biomedical law. The authors were optimistic about the need and place of international regulation in biomedical law, while appreciating the crucial role national law currently plays for regulating biomedical research and the development of international biolaw. The role of non-state actors, including experts, and the need for wider participation in law-making were considered, and developed. Overall, the agora showed the continuing need to discuss and deliberate on the steady progress of international biomedical law, using different approaches.

- 2) During the period of this report the publication of the book including main contributions of the workshop of Gottingen has progressed. A contract with Routledge was signed in March and the publication is expected by the end of 2021.

3. Future activities

We expect to organize a pre-conference meeting in the Research Forum (Glasgow 2022). Possible titles could be “Germ line gene editing and human security” or “Human Security: a Biolaw perspective”

4. Website

In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the ESIL Interest Groups Policy Guidance, each Interest Group is required to set up a website which includes information about the group’s activities, the names of the members of the Coordinating Committee members (including their contact details), the Group’s past and future activities and information about how to become an ESIL member. The website of the Interest Group, together with the general information is provided at <https://esil-sedi.eu/interest-groups/bio-law/>.

5. Contact

If you have any questions regarding the Interest Group do not hesitate to contact us:

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September 2021