

INTEREST GROUP ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 and 2024

Past activities:

- **Pre-conference workshop ESIL2024, *Social Sciences and the Compliance Spectrum in International Law: From Non-Compliance to Beyond Compliance*, Vilnius, 4 September 2024**

At our fourth pre-conference workshop at the Annual Conference, the IG discussed the concepts, drivers, and processes of compliance with international norms from a variety of cross-disciplinary perspectives. The workshop had a conference-style format, with 7 paper presentations. The workshop was very successful with lively and in-depth discussions, and in particular thanks to the excellent contributions of the following speakers: Wim Zimmermann, Lora Izvorova, Manu Misra, Katharina Luckner, Katharine Fortin, Ioana Cismas, Ula Kos, and Ezgi Özlü.

- **Speaker series organized with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science (2024)**

In late 2023, we started to develop a new initiative with the ASIL IG on International Law and Social Sciences (ILASS). In January 2024, we launched a joint speaker series featuring prominent interdisciplinary scholars whose research is at the intersection of international law and social sciences. We held 6 meetings throughout the Spring and the Fall terms. The members of the coordinating committee of both IGs took turns in hosting/moderating the sessions. The series was held online, and each session lasted about an hour. We created a long list of speakers that reflects the diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches and includes a mix of junior and senior scholars. We also paid attention to gender balance and geographical representation. Of that long list, each semester we selected speakers. Our purpose was to create a platform for interdisciplinary scholars to share their research and for students to gain insights into how to carry out research at the intersection of international law and social sciences. The 6 sessions held thus far featured Sergio Puig, Shiri Krebs, Taylor St John, Erik Voeten, Beth Simmons, Gino Pauselli, and Barbara Koremenos as speakers, as well as Krzysztof Pelc, Frédéric Mégret, Rachel Brewster, David Bigge, Gráinne De Búrca, Adam Chilton, Ezgi Yildiz, Daniel Bodansky, and Sikina Jinnah as discussants. All sessions were recorded and are available on the [website](#) of the ILASS, which kindly provided the online infrastructure.

- **Book Launch, *The Many Paths of Change in International Law* (OUP 2023), 28 February 2024**

In February 2024, an engaging online book launch celebrated the publication of *The Many Paths of Change in International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2023), co-edited by Nico Krisch (the Geneva Graduate Institute) and Ezgi Yildiz (California State University, Long Beach). The event featured thought-provoking discussions with the editors, contributor Mark Pollack (Temple University), and discussants Taylor St John (University of Oslo) and Jean d'Aspremont (University

of Manchester). Bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the event highlighted the book's interdisciplinary contributions to understanding how international law evolves and adapts within a volatile global landscape. The lively discussion delved into the book's central themes, drawing attention to its blend of international law, sociology, legal theory, and international relations perspectives. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with the panelists during a vibrant Q&A session.

- **Online event, *Lifecycle of an Interdisciplinary Book: Demystifying Publication Process*, 29 November 2023**

Together with the ESIL Early-Career Network, we co-organized a well-attended online event titled *Lifecycle of an Interdisciplinary Book: Demystifying the Publication Process*. This engaging panel aimed to unravel the complexities of publishing academic books, particularly interdisciplinary works that often grapple with unique challenges in reaching the right audience and finding the ideal publishing outlet. The session featured a diverse panel of speakers—Moshe Hirsch (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Emma Nyhan (University of Manchester), Tommaso Soave (Central European University), and Ezgi Yildiz (California State University, Long Beach)—who shared their insights and personal experiences with writing, pitching, publishing, and promoting interdisciplinary books. The discussion provided practical advice and candid reflections, offering attendees a clearer understanding of the often opaque publication process. For those unable to attend, a video recording of the session is now available online on our [website](#), ensuring its valuable insights remain accessible to all.

Future activities:

- **Speaker series organized with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science (2025)**

Building on the success of last year's series, we are continue our collaboration with the ASIL Interest Group on International Law and Social Science. The speaker series brings together leading scholars from around the world to present cutting-edge research at the intersection of international law and social science. Held online, the series is designed to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and global participation, with sessions scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month. The series highlights diverse methodologies, subject areas, and perspectives, ensuring a rich and inclusive dialogue. In January 2025, Veronika Fikfak (University College London) and Nicolo Ridi (King's College London) will examine the legal profession at the European Court of Human Rights. The series will culminate in May 2025 with a panel exploring attitudes toward collaboration and redemption in Ukraine, featuring distinguished experts from Oxford, LSE, and Duke University.

- **Pre-conference workshop ad agora ESIL2025, *Interdisciplinarity and the (Re)construction of International Law*, Berlin, 10-11 September 2024**

At our fifth pre-conference workshop and first IG-based agora, we will discuss the role of interdisciplinary engagement in this period of turbulence and transformation for international law. How do practitioners' (lack of) engagements with extra-legal disciplines influence the international legal system? How does crossdisciplinary scholarly engagement structure our perceptions and understandings of the system? And, more generally, what role can or should

interdisciplinarity have in the renewal of international law? Aimed at opening avenues for young and senior researchers engaged in interdisciplinary exchanges at the intersection of “law and...”, we will address different dimensions of interdisciplinarity in our understanding and (re)construction of international law. The call for papers is available [here](#).

Membership:

The current list of members is held by the ESIL Secretariat, and it counts 267 persons (as of September 2023). 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 is governed by four co-chairs, Zuzanna Godzimirksa (University of Copenhagen), Tommaso Soave (Central European University), Ezgi Yildiz (California State University, Long Beach), and Wim Zimmermann (Paris Lodron University of Salzburg). They run the IG, administer its webpage and organize regular events. The co-chairs meet regularly on Zoom.