

## **Annual Report 2023**

### **ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice**

The past twelve months were eventful for the ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice. The current co-conveners, Julia Emtseva, Claudio Pala, Alexandre Skander Galand and Caleb Wheeler acceded to their posts in November, 2022, replacing the then existing co-conveners. Following that, the co-conveners organised one stand-alone event, a workshop preceding the ESIL Annual Conference, and an agora held during the conference itself.

The stand-alone online event, held on May 22, 2023, was co-hosted with the Journal of International Criminal Justice (JICJ). It revisited the insightful symposium published by the JICJ in autumn 2022, exploring various dimensions of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict including the Russian act of aggression that precipitated the war. The discussion was made all the more timely by the International Criminal Court's then recent issuance of arrest warrants against Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova for war crimes committed during the conflict. A variety of issues were covered, ranging from Russia's memory laws, domestic prosecution challenges in Ukraine, the need for a special tribunal for the crime of aggression, and the future implications for international criminal law. In addition to helping plan the event, two of the IG's co-conveners, Alexandre Skander Galand and Julia Emtseva also participated in it. Skander acted as one of the discussants and Julia capably moderated proceedings.

The IG on International Criminal Justice also planned a pre-session workshop held before the start of the ESIL annual conference. The call for papers was issued in mid-March 2023, and asked for abstracts reflecting on the topic of Fairness and Selectivity in International Criminal Justice. The call received 30 separate submissions, from which seven were chosen for inclusion in the workshop. The workshop was divided into two panels, with the first focusing generally on how power dynamics in international criminal justice impact fairness and selectivity. The second panel attempted to drill down into the issue on a more micro-level by looking more at how procedure impacts selectivity in international criminal justice. The workshop was held in a hybrid format and was, on the whole, fairly well attended. It attracted approximately twenty-five in-person attendees but only one person was present online. The co-conveners found the relative lack of online attendance disappointing and hope to better facilitate remote participation in the future.

The IG on International Criminal Justice also helped organise one of the Agorae held during the ESIL annual conference. Initially, the IG proposed a panel for inclusion in the main conference but its submission was rejected on the basis that there was insufficient institutional diversity amongst the members of the proposed panel. Instead, the IG was approached by the conference organizers who invited it to help form a different agora from the one originally proposed. The IG then worked with Marko Milanović, the chair of Agora 1, on developing a second agora, which would become Agora 10. The IG was instrumental in choosing the participants and format for the agora, and one of the IG's co-conveners, Julia Emtseva acted as the chair for the agora.

The IG plans to remain active in organizing online events. Currently, the co-conveners are contemplating organizing online book talks with some authors who recently published books related to international criminal justice. We will meet in the beginning of October to further develop our plans.