

ESIL Interest Group on Peace and Security – Annual Report 2023

1. Annual Conference – Aix-en-Provence 2023

We ran a pre-conference workshop prior to the ESIL Annual Conference 2023, which was held in Aix-en-Provence. Our event was in-person and allowed speakers to attend in person. It was well-attended by our membership, with nearly 30 in-person participants, and the discussion was thoroughly engaging.

Papers were presented by:

- Yahli Shereshevsky (University of Haifa) *Common Sense Use of Force – Fairness and the Use of Force against Non-State Actors*
- Pauline Jannsens (KU Leuven) *A Reconsideration of International Humanitarian Law's Procedural Fairness: A Call to Include Non-State Armed Groups in the Making of Customary International Humanitarian Law*
- Philip Janig (Bundeswehr University Munich) *Freezing and Seizing Assets of the Russian Central Bank: An Exercise in Fairness?*
- Ida Asscher (Leiden University) *Back-passing through the Deprivation of Nationality: An Unfair Practice Regulated by International Law?*
- Bryan Peeler (University of Manitoba) *Reciprocity and Liberal International Order*

2. Research Forum – Tartu 2023

We ran a pre-conference workshop on 'The Changing Perceptions of the Use of Force in the Contemporary World' prior to the 2023 ESIL Research Forum in Tartu. Our event was held online on Monday 24th April 2023. The event was well-attended with nearly 25 online participants, and took place in two sessions with contributions as follows:

Paper presentations:

- Katie Johnston (University of Liverpool) *A New Renvoi in the Jus ad Bellum? General Comment 36 on the Right to Life and 'Acts of Aggression as Defined in International Law'*
- Niklas S. Reetz (European University Institute) *Humanity and Wars of Self-Defence*
- Attila Nagy (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität) *The Abolishment of the Use of Force by Post-Conflict Agreements*
- Gkagkatsis Panagiotis (SOAS University of London) *The Use of Economic Sanctions in the Russian-Ukraine War: Alternative to War or a Supplement to the Use of Force?*

Roundtable: The Changing Concept / Evolution of Neutrality:

- Pearce Clancy (International Law Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway)
- Kilian Roithmaier (University of Groningen)
- Alexander Wentker (Freie Universität Berlin)

3. A co-organised webinar on the war Ukraine

An innovative webinar on 'the war in Ukraine, international law, and regional peace and security' took place on 25th January 2023, with contributions from:

- Benjamin Sa Traoré (Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique)
- Nathanael Tilahun (Coventry University)
- Cathryn Costello (Hertie School Berlin)
- Patryk Labuda (University of Zürich)

This webinar is organised by the IGPS in association with the University of Zürich's Institute for International and Foreign Constitutional Law and the Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School. The panellists were extremely interesting, and their ideas were received well by participants.

4. Publication plans

Following the pre-conference workshops in both Tartu and Aix-en-Provence, we are working on an edited collection of the contributions made by our speakers. The book proposal is in preparation for submission to the *ESIL OUP Book Series*.

5. Book discussion

- On 16th February 2023, we ran a book discussion, led by Professor Noelle Quenivet, on the recent monograph by Dr Ka Lok Yip entitled 'The Use of Force against Individuals in War under International Law – A Social Ontological Approach'. It was online and well-attended by our IGPS membership, with nearly 25 participants. The discussion was a thoroughly engaging, enjoyable and enriching experience.
- On 9th November 2022, we ran a book discussion, led by Dr Niccolò Ridi, the recent monograph by Dr Rossana Deplano entitled 'Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives on International Law'. It was an online event and well-attended by our membership.
- On 22nd September 2022, we ran a book discussion, led by Dr Antonio Coco, on the recent monograph by Dr Afonso Seixas-Nunes entitled 'The Legality and Accountability of Autonomous Weapon Systems'. It was online and well-attended by our IGPS membership, with nearly 30 participants.

6. IGPS Podcast

We launched a podcast that will periodically examine topical issues and interesting books in the area of peace and security. The first episode and the podcast's launch featured Dr Ezequiel Heffes, Director of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, in conversation with Dr Katharine Fortin, Associate Professor at Utrecht University, together with the IGPS conveners.

7. Outlook

Two more podcast episodes are planned for this academic year, and we look forward to our pre-conference event during the annual conference in Vilnius in 2024.