

## **ESIL Interest Group on Peace and Security – Annual Report 2021**

### **1. New committee members**

Two new conveners were elected to the committee: Dr Patryk Labuda, Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam, and Dr Erin Pobjie, Lecturer in Law at Essex Law School.

### **2. Catania Research Forum - April 2021**

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the ESIL Research Forum at Catania was postponed until April 2021, when it ran online. Our side event focused on the effect of solidarity on both statehood and the use of force, from the perspective of peace and security. Our first panel, on solidarity, was chaired by one of our new conveners, Dr Patryk Labuda, composed of three speakers: Eva Nanopoulos (Queen Mary), who spoke on the topic of 'Solidarity in the law of peace and security: A neoliberal utopia?', Niko Pavlopoulos (UCL), who spoke on the topic of 'Solidarity with the state, competing governments, and the quest for peace and security' and Rachele Marconi (University of Macerata), who presented 'Solidarity and Justice for War Crimes Against Women: Examples and Perspectives.' Our second panel, chaired by our second new convener, Dr Erin Pobjie, had two speakers: Kenneth Chan (Walther Schucking Institute of International Law), who presented 'Threats of force and the fickle politics of extra-legal solidarity' and Agata Kleczkowska (Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences), who presented 'From solidarity to hegemony in the law of the use of force.' The second panel, which focused on the use of force, was supplemented by discussion of the papers by Professor Emanuele Cimiotta.

The side event was received well by the attendees and a fruitful discussion on the nature of solidarity took place, prior to the Research Forum itself.

### **3. Annual Conference – Stockholm, September 2021**

We also ran a pre-conference workshop prior to the ESIL Annual Conference 2021, held in a hybrid format in Stockholm. Our event was completely online and was well attended by the membership. Our speakers were:

- Eliana Cusato (Amsterdam Center for International Law, UvA) Unpacking the 'climate security' discourse: international lawmaking, conflict, and violence in the Anthropocene
- Stavros-Evdokimos Pantazopoulos (Conflict and Environment Observatory) Diffuse law-making: The case of law codification on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict
- Anni Poes (University of Glasgow) The UN General Assembly: From Uniting for Peace to the Investigative Mechanism for Syria

The event was chaired by Dr Patryk Labuda and a fruitful discussion of the ideas followed the presentations. We are particularly pleased to note that Eliana Cusato was awarded the ESIL 2021

Young Scholar Prize for the paper she delivered at our pre-conference event. Congratulations, Dr Cusato!

#### **4. 'Partnered operations and international law' Sapienza University - September 2021**

An event on 'Partnered Operations and International Law' was held, virtually, at Sapienza University in September 2021. The speakers were:

- Alexander Wentker – University of Oxford – Partners in Military Operations as Co-Parties to Armed Conflict
- Ralph Mamiya and Tobias Vestner – Geneva Centre for Security Policy – Revisiting the Law on UN Peace Operations' Support to Partner Forces
- Andrea Harrison – University of Leicester, Tracey Begley – International Committee of the Red Cross, Ben Farley – U.S. Department of Defense – The Principle of Non-Refoulement in Relation to Supporting States under International Humanitarian Law
- Eleonora Branca – University of Roma Tre – Complicity of States for Drone Strikes in Partnered Operations
- Giacomo Biggio – University of Sheffield – Cyber-Peacekeepers, International Humanitarian Law and Challenges to Legal Interoperability
- George Kyriakopoulos – National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – Partnered Operations in Cyberspace? Attribution of Responsibility in Respect of State-sponsored Hacking
- Astrid Kjeldgaard-Pedersen and Cornelius Wiesener – University of Copenhagen – Ensuring Respect by Partners. Revisiting the Debate on Common Article 1
- Anna Liguori – University of Naples "L'Orientale" – Overlaps between Complicity and Positive Obligations: What Advantages in Resorting to the Theory of Positive Obligations?
- Alessandro Mario Amoroso – Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies – Models for National Implementation of International Law Governing Partnered Operations

Welcome addresses were delivered by Oliviero Diliberto, Valeria De Bonis and Luisa Avitabile, all of Sapienza University of Rome. The panels were chaired by Nicholas Tsagourias, University of Sheffield, Ilja Richard Pavone, Italian National Research Council, and Emanuele Cimiotta, Sapienza University of Rome. The keynote was delivered by Gary D. Brown, National Defense University, USA and closing remarks were offered by Enzo Cannizzaro, Sapienza University of Rome.

The conference was very well attended, despite being moved online as a result of COVID, and the papers generated an interesting discussion.

#### **5. Special Issue of Journal of Conflict and Security Law**

Following the Sapienza event, a special issue of the Journal of Conflict and Security Law will host several of the papers presented at the conference. The special issue will be released over the coming months.

## **6. Outlook**

We are in the process of organizing two book launches to engage our membership in the early part of the 2021-2 academic session. We will also make arrangements for in-person contributions, if possible, at the Research Forum and Annual Conference next year.