



Call for Papers & Invitation to the International Criminal Justice IG Workshop

*Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law
Utrecht University
1-3 September 2022*

IN/EX-clusiveness Through the Lens of International Criminal Justice

International Criminal Law and Transnational Advocacy: Problematizing the International Penal Turn

In spite of its indisputable failings, the promise of international criminal justice persists as a key narrative for framing advocacy efforts in the face of seemingly new and emerging crises. We have seen this exemplified over the life cycle of its key institutions through the success of carceral feminist victories in centring sexual violence prosecutions. More recently, we also see this penal reflex in response to the systemic and existential threat posed by climate change. Whilst a wide array of regulatory tools have developed outside of international criminal law, this has not stopped calls for the crystallisation of ecocide as a crime. In an era of social media, the practices of online platforms operating in mass atrocity situations such as Myanmar have also begun to be scrutinised by recourse to the vocabulary of international criminal law. Similarly, campaigns for reparations for colonial wrongs are increasingly articulated through the frame of international crimes. For a field that had seen its legitimacy significantly undermined due to the International Criminal Court's alleged 'Africa bias' and its paralysis over Syria, the Ukrainian conflict also seems to have injected renewed vigour into the project of internationalised penalty. Calls for international criminal prosecutions emerged as some of the clearest legal narratives in the initial days after Russia's invasion. The seduction of individuating aberrant authoritarianism through international criminal law can bring together a range of political actors through the simplified moral outrage that the criminal law consolidates.

At a time of renewed suspicion about the purchase and politics of the domestic penal state, the project of internationalised penalty has yet to see any sustained self-reflexivity over the possibilities as well as limitations of such advocacy avenues. Here in this workshop, we want to explore the dynamics of IN/EX-clusiveness produced by an ever-expanding regulatory register of activity and advocacy hinging on international criminal justice that may or may not renew the field. We encourage a range of disciplinary approaches to study the history, institutions, actors, narratives and doctrines that underscore these trends as both consolidation and innovation within sites of transnational advocacy of the international criminal justice field.

We would be happy to receive proposals reflecting on (but not limited to) the following questions and themes:

- What types of methodologies are pertinent in studying transnational penal advocacy?
- What are the key connections and cleavages between scholarly debates centring on the domestic penal state and the governance of international society through individual criminal responsibility?
- What is lost and what is gained through framing systemic wrongs such as colonialism, slavery, and environmental destruction through the idiom of crime?
- How are these concerns being addressed in adjacent disciplines?
- To what extent can the Ukraine moment push us to think beyond the reflex of penalty?

Time and Location

Date: Wednesday 31 August 2022

Time: 14.00

Place: Janskerkhof 3, Utrecht University

Format: Hybrid

Format

We aim to organise the presentation and discussion of the selected papers via a format to be collectively agreed by the selected participants. At the end of the workshop, we will have a networking meeting with IG members.

Call for Papers

The aim of the Workshop is to foster an interdisciplinary exchange with leading experts from diverse academic disciplines and communities of practice. The IG co-convenors will take the decision of acceptance and the applicants will be informed at the end of April 2022. Our intention is to publish the papers as part of a symposium for an online journal.

Guidelines

ESIL selection criteria:

- Originality
- Relevance to the theme; and
- Geographical and gender balance

How to submit:

- CV and abstract (max. 300 words) in PDF format
- Submission date deadline: **25th April**
- Decision announced: **end of April**
- Please send your submissions to m.burgis-kasthala@ed.ac.uk and b.j.sander@luc.leidenuniv.nl

Your convenors:

Dr. Michelle Burgis-Khastala, University of Edinburgh

Dr. Barrie Sander, University of Leiden

Important Information

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some ESIL travel grants and ESIL carers' grants will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding. Please see the ESIL website for all relevant information about the conference. All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register just for one day to attend the workshop; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event. Selected speakers can indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize, if they meet the eligibility conditions as stated on the ESIL website. The ESIL Secretariat must be informed of all speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 2022.