



ESIL Annual Conference 2021
'In/Ex-clusiveness of International Law'
1-3 September 2022, Utrecht, The Netherlands

ESIL IG on International Law of Culture

Call for Papers

International Law of Culture in Armed Conflict

IG workshop, Wednesday 31 August 2022

(hybrid format)

Recent years have tragically demonstrated that armed conflicts, both international and non-international, pose an ever-increasing threat to the health and lives of millions of people and their cultural lives. The events of early 2022 - the aggression of the Russian Federation against the Republic of Ukraine - have evidenced the scale of these threats and the suffering of the civilian population. Cultural heritage is under threat, with the goal of rewriting the history of the region to create imagined historical continuities that would cement attempts at occupation and incorporation of Ukraine into the Russian national foundational myth, at the expense of the distinctiveness of Ukrainian cultural identity. At the same time, important archives in the Ukraine that shed light on Soviet history are under threat because of the damning information contained in those archives. Further, online and media disinformation are rife, as means to create, reshape, and destroy past and present identities. In addition, an (unprecedented) campaign concerning artists and all cultural actors - including academics - from Russia has been discussed in public debates and online, aiming at boycotting supporters (and alleged ones) of the ongoing aggression.

Uncertainties in the present situation induce wide-ranging discussion. We wish to use this event to ask a series of questions about the international law of culture in armed conflict, such as:

- Is international humanitarian law unable to provide adequate protection to culture in the current conflict?
- Can the law stop or prevent crimes against individuals, communities, groups and their culture and heritage in conflict-ridden territories?
- Are there effective tools today to stop such crimes and bring those responsible to justice?
- How does international law on cyber warfare engage with culture?
- Is the boycott (or self-restraint) of Russian artists, cultural actors, and academics an appropriate response? What are the legal implications of this type of response?
- What are the possibilities of cultural cooperation as a means for peace, a promise in the UNESCO Constitution, for before, during, and after conflict?

- How can the international community promote artistic freedom for those individuals affected by the conflict, for instance through initiatives like ICORN – international cities of refuge network? What are the legalities involved in this type of initiative?

Considering such difficult questions that are troubling the global community today, this call invites contributions addressing novel perspectives on the protection of cultural life and cultural heritage in present-day armed conflicts. Scholars, and in particular emerging young scholars, as well as practitioners are all encouraged to contribute. We also encourage papers that address and explore the intersections of international law with other disciplines (e.g. security studies, criminology, cultural and heritage studies).

Application Process

Please submit an abstract in .DOCX or PDF format (in English) of no more than 500 words by **25 April 2021 at 6 pm** (Brussels time) to the workshop convenors: giovannicarlo.bruno@cnr.it; l.lixinski@unsw.edu.au; andrzej.jakubowski@uni.opole.pl. This workshop will take place in hybrid format (allowing both online and onsite participation).

The following information must be provided with each abstract:

- The author's name and affiliation;
- The author's brief bio note (up to 100 words), and a short list of relevant publications (up to 5);
- Whether the author is a current ESIL member;
- An indication of interest in competing for the ESIL Young Scholars Prize;
- The author's contact details, including email address and phone number. Only one abstract per author will be considered. Multi-authored abstracts are welcome.

The ESIL encourages anyone participating in its activities to become a member, as the Society relies primarily on membership contributions to ensure its sustainability.

Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision no later than 30 April

Full papers between 8,000-12,000 words (including footnotes) must be submitted by 15 August 2022. (Applicants wishing to apply to the YSP will submit their papers by 1 July)

ESIL Young Scholar Prize (YSP)

Papers accepted for this interest group workshop will be eligible for the ESIL YSP. Candidates have to be ESIL members at the time of the submission of the abstract. Please note that upon acceptance of the abstract for presentation at the this interest group workshop and confirmation that they are eligible for the YSP, authors must submit a paper of between 8,000 and 12,000 words (including footnotes) to the [ESIL Secretariat](#) by **1 July 2022** for consideration by the YSP jury.

More details about the prize, eligibility and procedure can be found [here](#).

For further information, please contact the IG Convenors:

beatriz.barreiro@urjc.es; giovannicarlo.bruno@cnr.it; andrzej.jakubowski@uni.opole.pl; l.lixinski@unsw.edu.au.