



International Economic Law Interest Group

Call for Papers Workshop of the ESIL International Economic Law Interest Group

Pursuing Fairness in Times of Crisis: Reflections on the Future of International Economic Law

Aix-en-Provence, 30 and 31 August 2023

Abstract submission deadline: midnight Monday 26 April 2023 (CET)

The ESIL Interest Group on International Economic Law organises a Workshop on “**Pursuing Fairness in Times of Crisis: Reflections on the Future of International Economic Law**” as a side event to the 2023 ESIL Annual Conference. The ESIL IEL IG Workshop will take place on **Wednesday 30 August (13.00-19.00) and on Thursday 31 August 2023 (09.30-12.30)**.

The event is foreseen to take place as a hybrid event. Further details will follow in due course.

The workshop will address the following topics:

- 1) *Fairness in International Trade Law*
- 2) *Fairness in International Investment Law and Arbitration*
- 3) *Fairness in the Global Financial Architecture*

1) Fairness in International Trade Law

The multilateral trading system was founded on the premise of ‘increasing the size of the pie’, i.e. to ensure that all countries joining it would benefit from the gains of trade and the ensuing increase of development. Fast forward to 2023, we live in a landscape where fairness in international trade relations and the future of multilateralism in trade is questioned more than ever. The (un)fairness in international trade is reflected in many topics, e.g. the status of developing countries in the WTO, the level playing field amongst WTO members, the use of sanctions, the fairness of unilateral policies such as the EU’s Green Industrial plan and Foreign Subsidies Regulation, as well as the potentially (un)fair use of security exceptions in connection with violations of WTO law. We invite submissions on any of these topics.

2) Fairness in International Investment Law and Arbitration

Under international investment law, the concept of fairness can be understood as part of the substantial obligations of host states towards foreign investors (as the “fair and equitable” standard of treatment), as well as part of the procedural requirements of investment arbitration (several studies have been devoted to the evaluation of the fairness and independence of investment arbitration and arbitrators).

At the same time, and more broadly, fairness can be used to evaluate the relationship between developed countries (and investors coming from developer countries) and developing countries. For example, we can question what requirements make an IIA/BIT fair for all relevant stakeholders (like home and host countries, foreign investors, indigenous people)?

The concept of fairness can also be used to evaluate how to implement international investment treaty obligations in times of crises – most recently, the Russia’s invasion in Ukraine has posed important questions on how international law in general – and international economic and investment law in particular – can address in an efficient and fair way in the situation at stake. In the context of international investment relations, it suffices to recall the question on how to support foreign investment in Ukraine for the purpose of rebuilding (critical) economic sectors in a way that meet the real needs at stake and boost the national economy (preventing the risk of economic speculations)?

Proposals are welcome on any one of the above indicated (or related) issues.

3) Fairness in the Global Financial Architecture

The 'Global Financial Architecture' was shaped as a reaction to the 2007-2009 global financial crisis, where a broad range of transnational regulatory reforms were implemented with the aim of preventing the collapse of the financial system. However, if a new crisis emerges in the coming years, the global financial system's collapse could create an unprecedented implosion of the real economy of countries, especially in the global south. In this context, we are looking for contributions that reflect about the future of the 'Global Financial Architecture' or explore how it could be re-imagined to align it with the fulfilment of social and economic rights embodied in other international law regimes.

Proposals are welcome on any one of the above indicated (or related) issues.

Paper submission procedure

Abstracts may be submitted in English or French in accordance with the timeline as set out below. Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and should be submitted using the following [Google abstract submission form](#). In the form, please also indicate the following:

- The topic of the call for papers for which the abstract is submitted
- The author’s name and affiliation;
- A short bio (max. 300 words) and/or link to institutional website, including a list of relevant publications;
- The author’s contact details, including email address and phone number;
- Whether the author is an ESIL member and the date of affiliation
- Whether the author, if selected, is interested in being considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize, if (s)he meets the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website.

In case you have any additional questions regarding the workshop, you can send them to esilintecolawig@gmail.com

Timeline

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **midnight Monday 26 April 2023 (CET)**. We expect to be able to inform successful applicants by end-April 2023.

Please consider that 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 to attend the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Selected speakers should 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 selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April.

Convenors

Dr. Federica Cristani, Institute of International Relations, Prague

Dr. Anna Marhold, Leiden University

Dr. Gustavo Prieto, Ghent University

Dr. Marina Trunk-Fedorova, Kiel University