



## **Call for Papers and Invitation to the IBHR IG Workshop**

Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law  
Aix-en-Provence  
30<sup>th</sup> August-2 September 2023

### **Fairness in International Business and Human Rights Law**

Fairness may appear, at a very first sight, an implicit and almost established concept underpinning contemporary legal developments and scholarly discussions in the field of business and human rights. But, in practice, what does fairness mean in this context? How does it apply to specific situations? How can ideas of fairness be translated into international legal norms and standards? Have the meanings and perceptions of fairness evolved over time, and if so how has this impacted on the law? And even more problematically, is fairness a viable and appropriate concept through which examining, and perhaps assess, the international law in the field of business and human rights?

In line with the theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> ESIL Conference, the discussions at the annual workshop of the Interest Group on Business and Human Rights will revolve around questions of fairness in relation to international law on business and human rights.

Within this broad theme, we invite contributions that explore the different aspects and/or dimensions of fairness in the field of business and human rights, or that present different approaches or perspectives to fairness in this context. We very much welcome papers that seek to provide a critical reflection on this topic.

Possible aspects to be addressed in the workshop and areas of discussion may include, but are not limited to:

- What are the procedural and substantive dimensions of fairness in the law of business and human rights?
- Is the international law on business and human rights fair? Should it be? Can it be?
- Are there criteria to assess the level of fairness of norms and standards in the field of business and human rights?

- Do we need different approaches to fairness in dealing with businesses responsibilities in times of armed conflict?
- How and to what extent does the concept of fairness guide the international protection of the environment and shared resources?
- How and to what extent does the concept of fairness influence the protection of the rights of future generations?
- Is fairness a guiding factor to assess the business and human rights implications in international investment law?
- How may the concept of fairness be used to evaluate the human rights impacts of technological developments?
- How is the concept of fairness included in the development of due diligence obligations?

Please, see more information about the 18<sup>th</sup> ESIL Conference **here**.

### Time and Location

Date: 31 August

Time: 9.30-12.30

Location: Aix-en-Provence - we are planning this as a *hybrid* workshop, which will run both in person and on-line.

### Selection

The aim of the Workshop is to foster an interdisciplinary exchange with leading experts from diverse disciplines and communities of practice. The IG co-conveners will decide and inform submitters about acceptance at the beginning of May 2023.

ESIL selection criteria:

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

We also aim to ensure balance between more senior scholars and early career researchers.

### How to Submit

Submission deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 → extended to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Please, email your CV and abstract in pdf (max 400 words) to: e.orlando@sussex.ac.uk indicating in the object of your email “ESIL IG BHR Call for Papers”.

## Programme

We aim to organize the presentation and discussion of the selected papers into different thematic blocks. A detailed programme of the workshop will be circulated and published by the end of May 2023.

## Young Scholar Prize

Early career scholars may apply for the Young Scholar Prize. The prize is awarded by the ESIL Board. For details on the prize, eligibility conditions and how to apply see [here](#).

Young scholars who may wish to apply for this prize should indicate this in their abstract submission.

## 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.

We wish everyone a successful academic year and are looking forward to meeting you at our annual workshop! For any questions, please email us at: [mara.tignino@unige.ch](mailto:mara.tignino@unige.ch)

*Your conveners:*

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Dr. Mara Tignino, University of Geneva  
Dr. Emanuela Orlando, University of Sussex*