

ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals

## WEBINAR

### Re-imagining Moot Courts in International Law

4 April 2023

16.00-17.30 (Central European Time)

Register via the [online form](#)



The ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals is organising a webinar to discuss moot courts in international law.

#### THEME

In various parts of the world, mooting is regarded as an important component of legal education. In international law, generations of students have devoted their time and talents to providing persuasive legal arguments on behalf of fictional parties in front of international courts and tribunals. Mooting may assist students to develop their vocational skills, analytical competencies, and teamwork. At the same time, international mooting tends to leave behind some skills with which to critically reflect on the status quo (Werner 2019) and can end up reproducing existing structural inequalities embedded in international law (Schwöbel-Patel 2021). In fact, the set-up of moot courts often compels participants to affirm what can be perceived as mainstream legal narrative for the sake of winning competitions (Shrivastava and Lakra 2022). Some have proposed that mooters and their advisors should engage with critical perspectives to remedy those limitations (Scott and Soirila 2021). Yet many questions remain regarding how to integrate the critical reflection of law into moot court exercises.

Against this background, the ESIL IG webinar invites panellists to share their insights into the future direction of international moot courts. What are the pros and cons of moot court competitions, and what are the ways forward?

#### PROGRAMME

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| 16.00-16.05 | Introduction & welcome   |
| 16.05-16:40 | Short presentations by the panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <a href="#">Christine Schwöbel-Patel</a> (University of Warwick)</li><li>- <a href="#">Fine Hartmann</a> (VU Amsterdam)</li><li>- <a href="#">Dan Joyner</a> (University of Alabama)</li><li>- <a href="#">Abhijeet Shrivastava</a> (Jindal Global Law School)</li><li>- <a href="#">Rudraksh Lakra</a> (Jindal Global Law School)</li></ul> |
| 16.40-17:30 | Panel discussions  |

Please [register via the form](#) to participate. The link to the webinar will be sent afterwards.

## Background literature

- Abhijeet Shrivastava and Rudraksh Lakra, '[Critical Reflections on Jessup 2022: The Unsettled Promise of Decolonization](#)', *TWAILER: Reflections* (25 October 2022).
- Symposium: Politicising Mooting as a Pedagogical Tool for the Study of International Law (December 2021) – contributions by [Harsh Jain & Shubhangi Jain](#), [Abhimanyu George Jain](#), [Sanya Samtani](#), [Emily Wakesho Ngulo](#), and [Aman](#).
- Christine Schwöbel-Patel, 'Mooting: Advocacy, Litigation, Strategy', in Illan rua Wall, Freya Middleton, Sahar Shah, and CLAW (eds), [The Critical Legal Pocketbook](#) (Counterpress, 2021).
- David M. Scott and Ukri Soirila, '[The Politics of the Moot Court](#)' (2021) 32 *European Journal of International Law* 1079.
- Wouter Werner, '[Moot Courts, Theatre and Rehearsal Practices](#)', in Lianne J.M. Boer and Sofia Stolk (eds), *Backstage Practices of Transnational Law* (Routledge, 2019) 157.
- Dan Joyner, '[Why I Won't Attend the Jessup Competition Again](#)', *Opinio Juris* (13 February 2012).

The webinar is organised by the ESIL IG on International Courts and Tribunals, which is convened by Michael Becker, Machiko Kanetake, Cecily Rose, Yusra Suedi, and Stephan Wittich. For questions, we can be contacted by: [igictesil@gmail.com](mailto:igictesil@gmail.com)